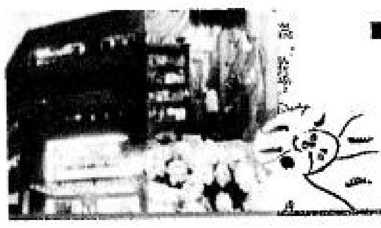

■ **Lifestyle / C1**

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■ **News / A2**

PCIJ writer of special report on illegal loggers gets death threats

■ **World / A9**

US gov't's $280-B suit vs tobacco giants goes up in smoke

■ **News / A2**

DOJ asks NBI to investigate CAP; special team formed

JOB *Market*

Follow your heart to bring out best in you

Jesuit says Church also to blame for corruption

By Armand N. Nocum

THE CATHOLIC Church in the Philippines needs to do serious introspection on what it preaches and practices regarding graft and corruption, according to a Jesuit priest and a university professor.

Speaking at the Jesuit-sponsored "Ehem!"

JESUIT/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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Carmen Soriano belts it out: I don't know that devil

By Fe Zamora

THE NERVE of the man.

An angry Carmen Soriano yesterday assailed former National Bureau of Investigation agent Martin Soriano for claiming that he was

CARMEN/ A20

ITSURA MO LANG!

Rights victims lose US case

Salonga says only option is get justice in RP, go after Marcos heirs

SAN FRANCISCO—For 19 years, they have fought for what they call justice. On Friday, by a stroke of an American judge's pen, all their efforts seem to have come to naught.

Thousands of Filipinos seeking compensation from the regime of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos lost a major legal battle in their quest to recover a $2 billion Hawaiian jury verdict to settle human rights abuses.

A US appeals court ruled that the 9,500 plaintiffs, most of them still living in the Philippines, can't recover $683 million in Marcos assets that were transferred from a Swiss account to the Philippine government, which claims ownership of the money.

"This means the class is going to have a lot of difficulties recovering money," said Robert Swift, an attorney for the plaintiffs.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, set up in 1986 to recover all Marcos-linked assets, said the US appeals court ruling vindicated the PCGG, which maintains that the Hawaii jury's compensation award "does not extend to the Philippines."

But this does not mean the human rights victims will no longer get compensation, PCGG chief information officer Nick Suarez told the INQUIRER.

Suarez said PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac had been urging legislators to pass a law that would indemnify the victims of martial law.

"Chairman Yorac has been asking legislators to fast-track the passage of the compensation bill, something already long overdue," Suarez said.

"This is a recognition of the right of the Philippines as a sovereign country to do what it wants to do and the San Francis-

RIGHTS/ A21

REM ZAMORA

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS GOOD LUCK

Lucky charms selling briskly in advance of the Chinese New Year (of the Wooden Rooster) on Feb. 9 include roosters, of course, which salesgirls at the Charmee General Merchandise store in Ongpin, Binondo, instruct customers to fill up with money, rice, round fruits and thoughts of prosperity and a long, good life abundant with love.

GMA orders sale of gov't's ₱47-B stake in San Miguel

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michelle V. Remo and Elizabeth Sanchez

AFTER weeks and months of it being hinted at and rumored about, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday that she has ordered the sale of the government's estimated P47-billion stake in the food and beverage giant, San Miguel Corp., to finance the rehabilitation of the coconut industry.

The sale will involve the entire government stake, not just the 27-percent sequestered shares acquired with the use of coconut levy funds, but also the shares owned by the state-run pension funds.

The President made the announcement in Mulanay, Quezon, where she inspected the site of a coconut-processing center and identified one million hectares of coconut land to be developed for agribusiness production.

The Government Service Insurance System owns 6.6 percent and the Social Security System 5.3 percent stake in the SMC, in addition to the 27 percent under the control of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

"All the shares will be sold as one bloc so we can finance the development of the coconut industry," Ms Arroyo said.

She explained that she ordered Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima to sell the stake because the government can only use the interest earnings from the coco levy funds for as long as the shares are tied up in the SMC.

She did not mention a timetable or procedure to be followed for the sale or how much the shares would amount to.

PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac has estimated the 27-percent SMC stake alone to be worth P47 billion while industry analysts

GMA ORDERS/ A22

Gawad to build 40,000 homes for storm victims

By Volt Contreras

IMAGINE: Bungalow-type, rainbow-colored houses rising from typhoon-ravaged towns in Luzon.

Gawad Kalinga, a Couples for Christ-backed humanitarian group wants to make this dream a reality with its latest housing project "Kalinga Luzon," a rehabilitation drive to benefit some 40,000 families in Quezon, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Mindoro Oriental and parts of Bicolandia.

"We hope to finish the construction of 40,000 houses in two years," said Tony Meloto, Gawad executive director and the most passionate speaker during the project launch held Friday night at the NBC Tent in The Fort, Taguig City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo graced the inauguration, where she, along with other government and business leaders, was presented a miniature model of a "Kalinga" house: a bungalow-type, two-bedroom structure in pastel color.

"We have been building beautiful, landscaped homes, complete with parks, playgrounds, health centers...We are building First World villages for the poorest of the poor," Meloto said, referring to the "400 communities" all over the country transformed by Gawad since 1999.

If you have toured the countryside and seen clusters of these "cute" houses, that's an example of a Gawad-transformed community, which "Kalinga Luzon" plans to replicate in calamity-hit areas in Luzon.

Gawad Kalinga was founded 10 years ago, but only started building homes and "restoring the dignity" of slum dwellers in 1999.

GAWAD/ A20

PDI PHOTO

THE INCREDIBLE pain of losing a daughter is etched on the faces of Speaker Jose de Venecia and wife Gina during the interment rites of daughter KC on Dec. 22, 2004.

JDV, Gina find God's solace in the 'Miracle of the Shoes'

By Gina P. de Venecia

(Editor's Note: Speaker Jose de Venecia and his wife Gina lost their youngest daughter KC to a fire that gutted their home on Dec. 16, 2004. The following is Gina's sharing of how God interrupted their endless grieving with a sign of His love.)

THIS is the story of hope amid a deeply personal tragedy. This is a story of a little miracle that reminds us all that only in God can we find the ultimate solace.

Joe calls it "the miracle of the shoes."

How does one deal with the incredible pain of losing a daughter? For Joe and I, there was and is only one way to cope—through the power of prayer.

Joe, whose grief is as abysmal as mine, observes every so often that we're still hurtling through a tunnel as dark as midnight. We cannot as yet discern any glimmer of light. But prayers—ours and those of meaningful friends and complete strangers—have started to bring in a glow of inner peace. And prayers have turned our faith—somewhat shaken by our loss—into a deeply personal and moving experience with the Lord.

Perhaps no story on how faith can create little miracles is as compelling as the one I wish to share with those who remain believers in the power of prayer.

For comfort and solace, I have turned to the Pink Sisters since the day we forever lost KC, our bubbly and feisty 16-year-old daughter.

The Pink Sisters live in seclusion in New Manila, ready to offer the sanctum of their convent's prayer rooms into citadels for the seekers of inner peace and a communion with the holies.

The Pink Sisters are now famous as the "prayer warriors" of the faithful. Whenever Cardinal Sin and former President Corazon Aquino have a cause to promote, or to protest, they inevitably turn to the Pink Sisters for prayers. Two of our friends, President Cory and President Gloria Macapagal-

JDV/ A22

UP physicist gets int'l award for practical uses of optics

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

WHILE other scientists gaze through powerful telescopes to discover new stars and seek answers to the mysteries of the universe, Filipino physicist Caesar Saloma "sails the ocean" of laser microscopy, or harnessing laser beams for practical applications.

Saloma's work has won for him and the Philippines the Galileo Galilei Award of the International Commission for Optics (ICO) in 2004. He is the first in Southeast Asia to be thus recognized.

The award, established in 1994, has yearly gone to men and women of science who promote optics—the discipline that deals with light and how it behaves—under "comparatively difficult circumstances."

This particular standard refers to difficult economic or social conditions or lack of access to scientific or technical facilities or sources of information.

Scientists from the developed world are thus disqualified from contending for the award. Past winners have come from Romania, India, Mexico, Russia, Argentina, Uzbekistan and Brazil.

Saloma, the director of the National Institute of Physics (NIP) at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, is to receive the award at the ICO triennial congress on "Challenging Optics in Science and Technology" scheduled in August

UP PHYSICIST/ A6

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Second FRONT PAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers or thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/02/06/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod -	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

PCIJ reporter gets threats for exposé

By Alcuin Papa

A REPORTER for the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism has allegedly received threats from a lawyer for his reported involvement in illegal logging activities.

Luz Rimban said that lawyer Romeo Roxas, president of the Green Circle Properties and Resources Inc., threatened her in a phone call on Feb. 1.

Rimban had written a two-part report on the allegedly anomalous tree-cutting operations of Roxas' company. The report was published on Feb. 1 in the INQUIRER and in several other local newspapers.

In a Feb. 3 letter addressed to Roxas, copies of which were sent to the INQUIRER and to several newspapers, Sheila Coronel, executive director of the PCIJ, said Roxas allegedly phoned Rimban at around 3 p.m. and told her "*Alam mo kung hindi ka lang babae, marami akong pwedeng gawin sa 'yo* [You know, if you were not a woman, I could do a lot of things to you]."

Roxas reportedly hinted that he had done dreadful things to others in the past and had the capacity to do so again, Coronel narrated in her letter.

Phone call

Coronel said that Roxas allegedly shouted at Rimban during the 10-minute phone call and accused her of destroying his reputation: "You maligned me. Why do you listen to NGOs? I am not an illegal logger. I told you that," he reportedly said.

"Mrs. Rimban [said] that the whole time you were screaming and ranting at her. She explained to you that your side was well ventilated in our report. Mrs. Rimban felt aggrieved and violated by the verbal abuse you heaped on her," Coronel said in her letter to Roxas.

She added that when interviewed for the two-part report, Roxas told Rimban that "I am not a logger, I am just clearing my land," a quote which came out in the PCIJ story.

Upon the advice of lawyers for PCIJ, Rimban filed a police report on the incident.

Coronel also said Rimban had informed Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay of the incident through PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

Grave threats

"You see, we cannot take such threats lightly, considering that 10 journalists were killed in the Philippines last year. As a lawyer, you know very well that making grave threats against anyone is a legal offense. Such behavior is unbecoming not only of a member of the bar but also of the legitimate businessman and banker you claim to be," Coronel said in her letter.

Bataoil told the INQUIRER that the incident was a "cause for concern" and that he would maintain an open line of communication with Rimban regarding the matter.

He ruled out the assignment of security for Rimban "until such a time that she feels there is a specific threat. But we can immediately act to validate and verify the presence of suspicious-looking characters around her house or place of work and implement preventive measures," Bataoil said.

He added that Aglipay had issued a standing order to all units around the country "to make themselves available to friends in media who are in the same situation as Mrs. Rimban."

Shaken

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Rimban said the whole incident had left her shaken. "Who would know what to say in a situation like that? I was afraid before and now I am more afraid," she said.

She added that she immediately informed her lawyers and Coronel about the incident.

Catholic Church slams VAT hike, Charter change

By Jerome Aning

THE INFLUENTIAL Catholic Church has joined the mounting clamor against the imposition of new taxes, particularly the proposed increase in the value-added tax, saying the proceeds only end up being misused or go to the pockets of corrupt government officials.

Breaking his silence for the first time on the controversial VAT issue, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said yesterday that the VAT hike should not be pursued if it would be the poor who would be burdened by it.

Rosales, who hosted the National Prayer for Unity among Christians with Protestant and other Christian sect leaders at his official residence in Manila, also slammed renewed moves to amend the Constitution.

"I think any kind of taxation (should) not prejudice the people, especially the poor... If the VAT hike is going to affect most of the poor people, then it's better if it's not imposed," the prelate told reporters.

In levying new taxes, two things ought to be considered, according to Rosales: First, those earning more should be taxed more. And, second, much of the country's tax collection is being wasted due to corruption.

He cited recent studies of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund which showed that as much as 40 percent of the country's annual budget goes to corruption.

"We all know that the government needs money. The money is there, only it is being wasted. What should be reduced is the wrong intake of money, the wrong spending of money, the corrupt use of money," the archbishop explained.

Rosales noted that the prevalence of corruption in the tax collection procedures should also be addressed.

The Manila archbishop also said that proposals to amend the Constitution were untimely and out of focus at the present.

"We are in a critical moment. It's not the time to change horses in midstream. We're in sort of a crisis," Rosales told reporters.

"I think that, ultimately, any development and progress in a country (would not be accomplished through) the change of the system but in a change of the people within the system," he added.

The prelate said there should instead be a sort of spiritual renewal among the people governing and the people governed, not the institution.

ROSALES

"The institution will change if the people are changed. Primarily important is to change the minds, hearts, attitudes, values of our people," Rosales explained.

The archbishop deplored that in the Philippines, some people are "tempted by quick changes," especially during crises afflicting the country.

"One big change, (they say) let's try martial law. One big change, let's try Edsa (people power revolution). One big change, let's try changing the Constitution. I don't think it will work if we keep on changing," he said.

Rosales said his priority was to transform the vision of Filipinos, particularly those in the archdiocese, by changing the way they look at themselves and by restoring their value of self-worth.

"We are changing attitudes and values, giving new motivations and new orientations. This is a new expression of unity, how we interpret a redefinition of development. That's what we're doing now," he added.

Realtors also buck VAT increase

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE COUNTRY'S top realtors and construction firms plan to launch a people's initiative against the amendments to the value-added tax (VAT) law once the legislature passes the Malacañang-backed revenue measure.

The firms, belonging to the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (Creba), threatened to bring the VAT issue directly to the people should the Senate pass the bill which will increase and expand VAT.

Testifying before the Senate ways and means committee chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto, Creba's lawyer Manuel Serrano asked lawmakers to "assess and re-assess" the VAT measure.

Serrano told the committee that Creba's position was against VAT "whether in the form of increase or lifting the exemptions, or both."

"I'm not talking of VAT and our opposition to VAT only because I'm looking at the real estate industry. I'm looking at the economy and the welfare of our people in general," he stressed.

"This may cause—I hope this will never have to happen—some kind of an upheaval of sorts. What we are thinking, as far as Creba is concerned, is to avoid... a possible Edsa 4... [Creba will] probably join, if not lead, the movement that would recall this bill if it becomes (a) law," Serrano warned.

He explained that under Republic Act 6735, otherwise known as the Initiative and Referendum Act, the people could directly revoke a national law.

"We hope and we are confident we can raise the required 10 percent of the registered voters, and at least three percent (of the votes) per city or municipality," said Serrano.

"I hope that doesn't happen. I hope, at this point in time we can already agree that in the interest of our people, we will draft (other) ways by which to address the fiscal deficit," he stressed.

Under RA 6735, the people have the power "to directly propose, enact, approve or reject, in whole or in part, the Constitution, laws, ordinances or resolutions passed by any legislative body upon compliance with the requirements of this act."

The law defines "initiative" as the "power of the people to propose amendments to the Constitution or to propose or enact legislation through an election called for the purpose" while referendum is the "power of the electorate to approve or reject a legislation through an election called for the purpose."

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NBI joins probe of CAP

By Leila B. Salaverria and Heidi Lenffer

WITH the Senate still to wind up its investigation into the beleaguered College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc., the National Bureau of Investigation has already joined the fray.

"We will conduct the investigation in the interest of those who were affected by the problems surrounding CAP," NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said.

Wycoco told reporters that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez himself asked the bureau to investigate CAP.

Alejandro Tenerife, chief of the NBI's special investigation services which would be monitoring the probe, has designated the bureau's Special Action Unit (SAU) to handle the investigation.

SAU chief Vicente de Guzman said he would meet with Wycoco and Tenerife on Monday to map out the strategies that the NBI would follow in the investigation.

De Guzman said that he will form a team composed of SAU agents to focus solely on the case.

"I know the CAP issue is a significant matter, which is why I want a special team to handle it," he said.

The team, he said, would start talking to CAP planholders affected by the firm's problems so the latter could act as formal complainants in case charges would be filed against the company.

CAP, with reportedly over 780,000 planholders, is the country's largest pre-need company. Last year, the Securities and Exchange Commission suspended its license to sell education plans after it incurred a deficiency in its trust fund.

Three Senate committees are currently holding hearings about CAP's finances following reports that colleges and universities have refused to honor CAP-issued checks after several checks bounced.

But CAP has assured its planholders that it would honor all its obligations.

Top CAP officials said that negotiations are ongoing with two investors who would infuse fresh capital into the pre-need company.

"(CAP) has no plan, whatsoever, of closing shop contrary to what our critics have been saying in the mass media," said CAP spokesperson Bobby Café, speaking at the weekly news forum at Sulo Hotel.

Café explained that the company was undergoing a "simple problem of cash flow," and blamed the media for blowing out of proportion something that "is a normal occurrence in big companies."

The cash-flow problems in question involved a capital impairment of P5.4 billion and a trust fund deficiency of P17 billion, he said.

He said the company still had P8.8 billion in trust funds, and was expecting a fresh infusion of capital.

CAP expects to secure a $300-million loan from Nevada-based First American Investments, of which P800 million will be used to pay the tuition and other educational expenses of its planholders, he said.

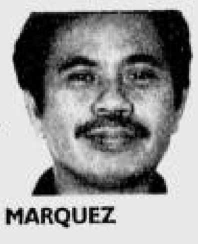
Café said that in a worst-case scenario, CAP could convert its assets, some of which include Metro Rail Transit bonds (40 percent), shares in real estate (25 percent) and liquid assets (10 percent), into funds that it could pay the planholders.

He admitted that CAP had yet to pay the December checks it issued to cover the second semester tuition fees of its planholders.

Café said its cash flow problems were not caused by mismanagement and bad investments, as alleged by critics of CAP, but due to a combination of "several factors" which were compounded by the suspension of its license by the SEC.

Pinoy lensman is judge of int'l photo tilt

FILIPINO photojournalist Alberto "Bullit" Marquez has been invited by The Netherlands-based World Press Photo Foundation to sit as a second-round jury member in the 2005 World Press Photo Awards.



MARQUEZ

Widely recognized as the world's most prestigious international competition in photojournalism, the World Press Photo Awards has attracted over 63,093 entries from 4,176 photojournalists from 124 countries, including the Philippines.

Entries will compete in various categories such as Photo of the Year 2004, General News, Daily Life, etc. Filipino photojournalist Alberto Garcia won in the Nature category for his heart-stopping picture of the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo.

Marquez, chief photographer of the Associated Press in Manila, is the second Filipino to be invited as a jury member. The first was Manuel B. Ceneta, formerly of Agence France Press, now with AP in Washington D.C.

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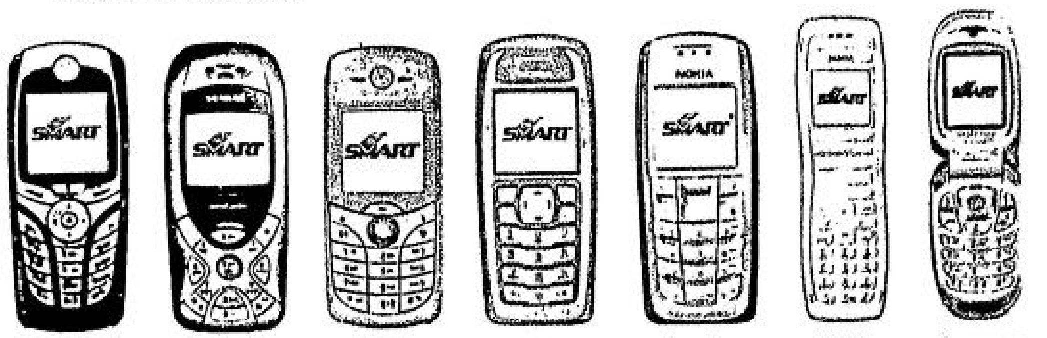

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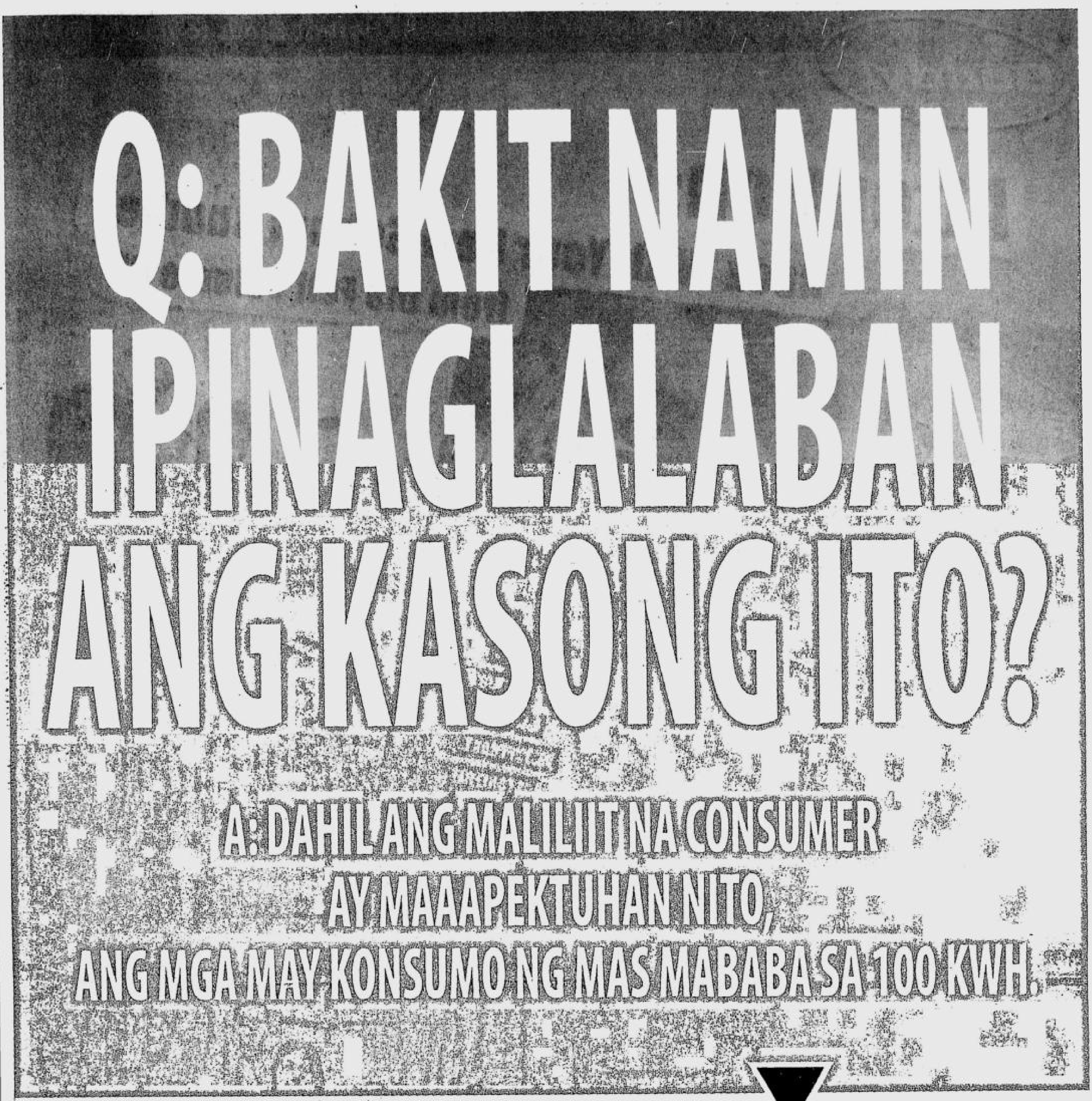

Q: BAKIT NAMIN IPINAGLALABAN ANG KASONG ITO?

A: DAHIL ANG MALILIIT NA CONSUMER AY MAAAPEKTUHAN NITO, ANG MGA MAY KONSUMO NG MAS MABABA SA 100 KWH.

Ipinag-utos ng Court of Appeals (CA) kamakailan ang pagbawi sa desisyon ng Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) ayon sa paghimay ng Meralco bill. Ang ruling na ito ay mangangahulugang babalik ang PPA, mawawala ang lifeline subsidy, at tataas ang presyo ng kuryente. Mapipilitang magbayad ang mga Meralco customers na kumukunsumo ng 0-100 kWh ng dagdag na higit sa P100 buwan-buwan, at isauli ang halagang aabot sa halos P2,000 para sa mga buwan mula June 2003 hanggang sa ngayon.

Sa panahon ngayon, ayaw ng Meralco na dagdagan pa ang pahirap ng maliliit na customers. Ito ang dahilan kaya't iaapela ng Meralco ang desisyon ng CA sa Supreme Court, sa ngalan ng transparency at pagpapahalaga sa mas maliliit na customers.

Hinihingi po namin ang inyong pag-unawa at suporta sa bagay na ito. Ginagawa po namin ang lahat upang patuloy na magkaroon ng liwanag ang ating buhay. Maraming salamat po.

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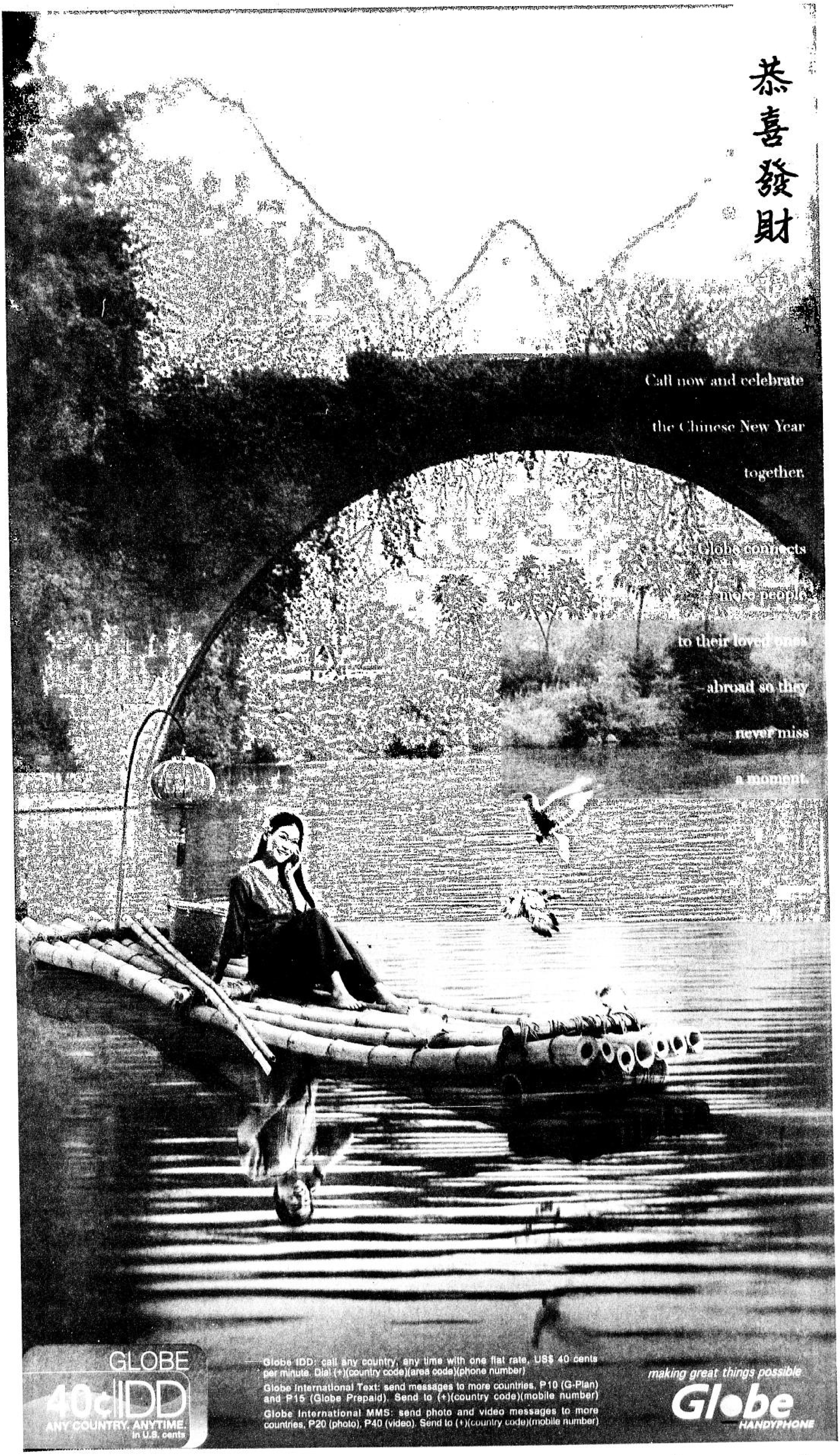
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Globe International MMS: send photo and video messages to more countries, P20 (photo), P40 (video). Send to (+)(country code)(mobile number)

Let's give peace a chance, GMA appeals to Reds

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG yesterday appealed to the communist-led National Democratic Front to show signs of sincerity in peace negotiations by considering a ceasefire, adding this will also help convince foreign governments that it was not a terrorist organization.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, through her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, made the appeal after leaders of the NDF, a coalition of underground communist organizations, expressed disinterest in resuming talks with the Arroyo administration.

"Waging peace both with the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) and the NDF is part of the President's priority agenda and all we want are signs of sincerity to work for lasting peace for the sake of our people and the national community," Bunye said in a statement yesterday.

NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni said there was no point in talking peace with the Arroyo administration and even criticized its insistence on a ceasefire ahead of the signing of a final peace deal.

The government has asked the NDF to implement a ceasefire as a precondition for the resumption of talks, according to Presidential Chief of Staff Norberto Gonzales who joined a top-level Cabinet mission that went to Oslo last week.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III had told Norway, which had acted as mediator and facilitator in the government-NDF talks, that the Philippines wanted a ceasefire first.

Malacañang told the NDF that a ceasefire was vital not just to resume the talks but also to pave the way for the CPP-NPA's removal from the Foreign Terrorist Organizations banned by the United States and the European Union.

"A ceasefire is one of the best ways that the CPP-NPA can get off the perception of the international community that the former is a terrorist organization," Bunye said. "Their action and sincerity should convince the US and the EU. We cannot do it for them."

The NDF, whose military arm had waged a violent insurgency for 35 years, had asked its delisting from the FTO as a condition for peace talks.

4 soldiers, 2 Moro rebels hurt in clashes in South

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Four soldiers and two suspected guerrillas were wounded in separate clashes with suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf Muslim group in the South, the military said yesterday.

Naval commandos tracked a group of suspected Abu Sayyaf rebels as they landed Friday on the small island of Sacol, near this city, Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said.

Two of the group were wounded and captured in the resulting gunbattle, Braganza said, adding that troops were pursuing the others.

Meanwhile, four soldiers were wounded after about 50 Abu Sayyaf members raided an Army outpost in Jolo on Saturday, military officials said.

The attackers were driven away by artillery fire, said Jolo commander, Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, adding that intercepted radio transmissions indicated that the rebels had suffered large casualties. *AFP*

UP physicist gets int'l award for optics

From page A1

in Changchun, China. He shares the prize with Prof. Milivoj Belic of Serbia and Montenegro.

As winners, Saloma and Belic are entitled to the ICO's special attention and can count on support for their future activities.

Getting things done

Saloma, 44, recalls that it was his exposure to his father—a mechanical engineer who seldom bought his son toys but instead made them out of found materials in Tagbilaran, Bohol—that sharpened his sense of "wanting to build things" and instilled in him "the scientist's sense of urgency of getting things done in the most efficient and more economical way."

He is happy for UP and the Philippines because, he says, the Galileo Galilei Award—named after the scientist who was persecuted by the Catholic Church for propounding that the earth is not the center of the universe—proves that "we can do world-class science and cutting-edge technological innovation."

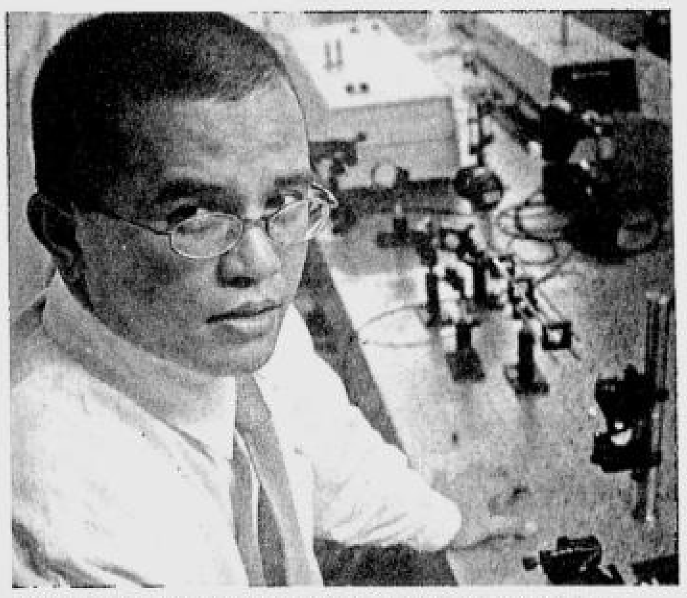
"And we can do it in our country," he adds. "Winning is just the result of the many years of effort to improve physics here."

Saloma, who earned his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees all at the UP, underscores the need for graduate schools like NIP to train Ph.D. holders in physics "to be competent technically and confident in their expertise."

"By doing this, we get significant outputs," he says. "Without a sustainable graduate program, we cannot solve the problem of brain drain. The bulk of bachelor of science degree holders go abroad for lack of options to stay here. We've realized that to be able to reduce or neutralize the brain drain, we must offer graduate programs for our young, bright graduates."

Dreaming higher

To Saloma, the award also indicates that "we've advanced," having been "recognized by a credible society of peers."



FIRST person from the Asean region to receive the prestigious Galileo Galilei award, Caesar Saloma is struggling to compel the country's scientific community to recognize and celebrate excellence "without jealousy." RAFFY LERMA

It is not farfetched now to "dream higher" of Filipino scientists winning such awards as the Nobel or Kyoto Prizes, he says.

The institute Saloma heads is moving out of the UP's Palma Hall beginning next month. He views the move to the new NIP building on C.P. Garcia Street and Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, which was built at an estimated P208,710,000, as "a visible manifestation to the scientific community and the public that it is worthwhile to invest in science and technology, and not just in a war against terrorism or servicing the foreign debt."

"It is a physical symbol of the seriousness of the UP and government agencies to develop.science and technology and provide a supportive environment for colleagues and future generations of talent," he says, adding:

"It is there to create a tradition of talents meeting and interacting. If you're in Cambridge or Oxford in England, you breathe the same molecules or sit on the same chair or work at the desk that Newton did. Without a place like that to go to, where will we develop our talents? The NIP is there to help them explore 'science like an explorer and be the best in the world, willing to sail the ocean."

Developing values

Saloma, who was elected last year to the Hall of Fame for Best Publication by the Gawad Chanselor of UP Diliman, and who won first place in the first Commission on Higher Education Republica Award, stresses that "a strong scientific tradition in the country would develop core values that form the cornerstone of a successful scientific enterprise."

He lists these values as "honesty in presenting data, fairness wherein awards are given based on merit, collegiality wherein people can argue over scientific issues without thinking that these are personal attacks, and transparency that creeps out to the larger society."

"A society with a strong scientific tradition will have the ability to recognize scientific excellence and celebrate it appropriately without jealousy," he says.

'Trivializing excellence'

Saloma bewails what he calls "the trivialization of excellence and the rationalization of mediocrity" in the Philippine setting.

To fight these, he has been publishing his researches in Institute of Scientific Information-accredited journals, where his works can be popularly accessed. He has also designed instruments that other sciences will find useful through the NIP's Instrumentation Physics Laboratory.

For example, Saloma engaged in interdisciplinary research collaboration with his wife, Cynthia, a developmental biologist at UP's National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, by building a laser microscope that can observe in three dimensions the organ development inside the embryo of a gestating mouse.

The procedure, he says, is noninvasive and does away with the former practice of cutting the embryo to observe organ defects and find solutions.

Long struggle

Saloma and his team has had a long struggle in pursuing their interest in light's use to observe small things (e.g., biological samples of mouse embryos) and looking for applications of laser, like in detecting defects in integrated circuits of microprocessors and computer chips.

They view the Galileo Galilei Award as a recognition of this struggle that began for Saloma when he was sent to Osaka University in Japan on a Mombusho scholarship and worked with professors keen on laser microscopy.

He realized then that optics was not that expensive to do research in, and was something he could do back home without big funding.

With private sector

He returned just when the microcomputer became affordable, and combined it in his researches with an optical microscope.

The work Saloma and his team do has gained the attention of firms such as Intel Philippines and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which fund research proposals or commissions the NIP to do research.

Saloma is pleased that "this collaboration with the private sector in meaningful ways has been realized."

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Ayala Company Launches Its New House & Lot Units at *Verdana Homes Mamplasan*

Community Innovations Inc., an Ayala company, is adding another feather in its cap with the launch of Verdana Homes Mamplasan's house and lot units. Strategically located at the gateway to Ayala South, Verdana Homes Mamplasan is a complete package indeed - a well-planned community that provides residents with a relaxing environment, a grand array of amenities, an atmosphere that fosters community spirit, and a sense of prestige that can only come from a respectable property developer.

The carefully planned house and lot units of Verdana Homes Mamplasan call to mind the qualities that made its sister development, Verdana Homes in Bacoor, Cavite, a runaway success. The floor area of the houses range from 127 sqm to 225 sqm, and the design of all six house types considers the needs of growing families. Each residence provides spacious rooms, excellent ventilation, ample storage areas, wide carports, comfortable maids' quarters, and natural lighting--all existing in a pleasant and secure environment.

A refreshing innovation in the development is the use of a unique Asian-Balinese motif throughout Verdana Homes Mamplasan. Features seen in modern Balinese architecture, such as simplicity and the use of clean lines, are adapted in each unit's design. Other charming features include the use of wooden color shades on doors, window frames, porch and balcony railings. Ornamental touches such as roof brackets and the use of earth tones are also Balinese-inspired. Residents can choose from four color schemes for their houses.

Verdana Homes Mamplasan's house and lot units also boast of being situated near the village's 2-hectare Central Park, the focal point of family and community activities. Evoking long afternoons spent with the family or socializing with neighbors, the Central Park provides various recreation zones to suit residents of any age. Picnic areas await the aroma of family barbecues on weekends. Open playing fields, jogging trails, basketball and covered badminton courts, swimming pools, biking paths and skating rinks are a delight for sports and health enthusiasts. Gazebos, footbridges and a natural flowing stream await visits from nature lovers. Residents of the Verdana Homes Mamplasan house and lot units have the comfort of close proximity to these amenities of the subdivision. Moreover, residents have quick and easy access in and out of the subdivision, as most house and lot units are strategically located near the main entrance gates.

The development is designed to be a true residential enclave that caters to young urban achievers with the same values and aspirations. This encourages neighbors to trust one another, and make friends. The feel of living in a close-knit, suburban community is prevalent throughout the development; proving that in terms of layout and design, Verdana Homes Mamplasan's house and lot units go way beyond the aesthetic, taking into consideration the residents' enhanced quality of life.

The launching of house and lot units offers a chance for would-be residents to choose prime spots through flexible down payment and monthly amortization schemes. But they have to hurry, as only 46 house and lot units are offered in Verdana Homes Mamplasan's first phase. For more information, call 888-0000, 849-0551, or visit www.communityinnovations.com.ph or email cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph. Interested parties may also visit the sales booth at the Activity Center of Alabang Town Center.

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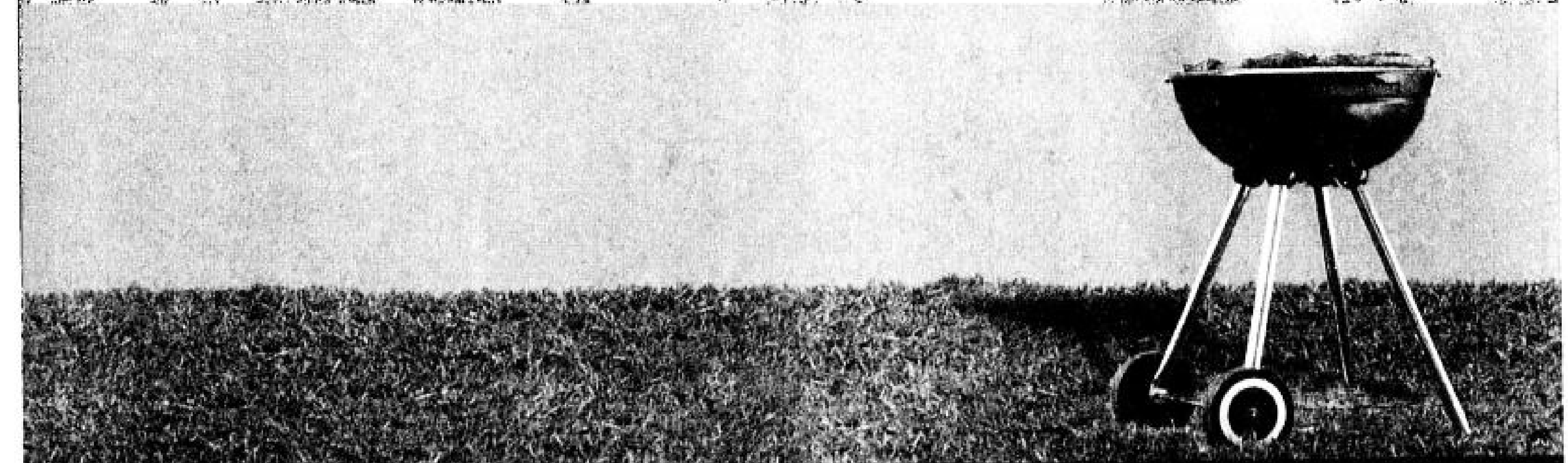

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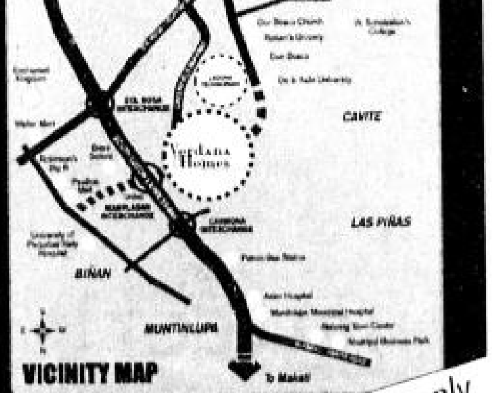
Different house-and-lot and lot-only packages are available and made easily accessible through flexible downpayment and monthly amortization schemes. Inquire now!



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Italian journalist abducted in Iraq

BAGHDAD—An Italian reporter was kidnapped outside a Baghdad mosque on Friday, while Iraq's main Shiite coalition held onto a commanding lead as vote counting neared its halfway point five days after the polls.

Giuliana Sgrena, 56, a correspondent for the leftist Il Manifesto daily, was abducted after visiting a mosque where refugees have been encamped since the devastating US-led assault on Falluja in November.

The area is one of notorious danger for journalists. French journalist Florence Aubenas was snatched a month ago as she worked on the same story and another Western reporter narrowly escaped an abduction attempt 10 days ago.

An Iraqi guard working on the Baghdad University compound sheltering the refugees, witnessed the capture and said Sgrena's driver and translator were spared when a gunfight broke out between the kidnappers and campus security.

An ultimatum later appeared on an Islamist website giving Rome 72 hours to withdraw its 3,000 troops from Iraq.

The statement, which could not be independently verified, was issued in the name of the Islamic Jihad Organization and laid down a personal challenge to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlsuconi who has faced down domestic opposition to be one of Washington's staunchest Iraq allies.

"The journalist's kidnapping is nothing other than a message to the Italian government led by Prime Minister Berlusconi that you will never be secure as long as you have a soldier in Iraq," it said.

"We give the Italian government 72 hours to recall its troops from Iraq or else we will communicate other messages to you."

Berlusconi told his Forza Italia ruling party that "the negotiating machinery has been set in motion" to press for the journalist's release.

He said hoped the kidnapping had been a political one and that it would be possible "to achieve a solution quickly."

Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu said Sgrena had "probably been kidnapped by a Sunni (Arab) group" and pledged Rome's commitment "to do everything possible to secure her release."

Dozens of foreigners, including journalists and aid workers, have been abducted by Sunni Arab insurgents and a number murdered since the spate of hostage-taking erupted last April. *AFP*

IN THIS reproduction of a photo released by Il Manifesto Italian daily in Rome, journalist Giuliana Sgrena, center, is seen in an unspecified location in Afghanistan. Sgrena was kidnapped in Iraq shortly before 2 p.m. Friday by gunmen who blocked her car near the Baghdad University compound.

AP

Missing Afghan plane found; no survivors

KABUL—A Dutch military helicopter on Saturday found the wreckage of an Afghan passenger plane that went missing two days ago with 104 people on board after turning away from the capital Kabul in a snow storm.

An Afghan defense ministry spokesperson said there were no survivors.

"There are no survivors from the crash," he said. "We will begin to evacuate and retrieve the bodies," he said.

The Boeing 737 aircraft operated by private Afghan airline Kam Air went missing on a flight from the western city of Herat after it turned away from Kabul airport on Thursday in a snow storm. It disappeared off radar screens shortly after.

"Dutch AH-64 Apache helicopters that were searching for the missing Kam Air Boeing 737 have found the wreckage at 1:37 p.m.

"The wreckage was spotted in the Shaperi Ghar area approximately 30 km south, southeast of Kabul city," said a statement from Nato peacekeepers in Kabul.

"The tail of the aircraft was spotted with other debris," it said.

The Nato-led International Security Assistance Force has sent specialist mountain rescue teams to the area.

An Afghan defense ministry spokesperson identified the crash site as being near Band-e Ghazi, a village overlooked by the mountain of Shapiri Ghar.

More than 1,000 Afghan soldiers were joined by around 100 Nato ground troops scouring the mountainous, snow-bound area on Saturday while helicopters clattered overhead.

There were a number of foreigners among the 96 passengers, including nine Turks, three American aid workers, an Italian naval captain, two other Italians and an Iranian working for an international non-governmental organization.

Six of the eight crew were also foreigners, four of them Russian, the Russian Interfax news agency said. The plane was leased from a company in Kyrgyzstan.

Kam Air opened as Afghanistan's only private airline in November 2003. It flies leased aircraft between Kabul, Dubai and Istanbul and operates several domestic routes.

In September, an Antonov-24 operated by the airline slewed off the runway while landing in Kabul, injuring some of the 27 passengers aboard, apparently after engine trouble.

In early 1998, 51 people died when an Antonov transport plane operated by state-run Ariana Afghan Airlines crashed in mountains near the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta after failing to land in Afghanistan because of bad weather.

In March that year, 45 people were killed when another Ariana plane, a Boeing 727, slammed into a mountain near Kabul.

In the most recent air crash in Afghanistan, three US military personnel and three civilian crew were killed when a US transport aircraft crashed in central mountains in November. *Reuters*

Annan vows truth in Iraq oil-for-food scandal

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Friday vowed to clear the name of the United Nations after a new report found serious wrongdoing by the head of the former UN oil-for-food program in Iraq.

"We are as determined as everyone to get to the bottom of this. We do not want this shadow to hang over the UN," Annan told reporters at the world body's headquarters in New York.

"Obviously there were some hard knocks in the report and we are concerned about it," he said. "We intend to take action promptly."

An interim report by an enquiry panel on Thursday found Benon Sevan, who headed the program, obtained allocations of oil from Saddam Hussein's regime.

It said Baghdad was trying to buy influence with Sevan, hoping he could make it easier for the regime to get hold of spare parts to help rebuild its oil industry, which was shattered by the 1990-1991 Gulf War.

The report stopped short of saying he had taken bribes or committed a crime but the head of the panel, former US Federal Reserve banking chair Paul Volcker, cautioned that the investigation would continue.

Sevan has denied any wrongdoing, and his lawyers on Thursday said the report was an attempt to scapegoat the veteran UN official.

"We had not expected anything of the sort" from Sevan, said Annan, whose chief of staff suggested that the Volcker panel had all but proven the allegations.

"The secretary general is shocked by what the report has to say about Mr. Sevan," the chief of staff, Mark Malloch Brown, said.

"He very much doubts there can be any extenuating circumstances to explain the behavior which appears proven in the report," Malloch Brown said. *AFP*

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A CONVOY of German armored vehicles from ISAF searches for the missing Afghan plane in Khaki Jabar, a district southeast of Kabul, on Friday. Nato and Afghan forces suspended their ground and air search as darkness fell.

AP

Bush backs Social Security overhaul

TAMPA, Fla.—US President George W. Bush said on Friday he recognized his contentious proposal for personal retirement accounts was not the only solution to bolster Social Security but would be part of a broader overhaul of the country's largest entitlement program.

Wrapping up a two-day, five-state swing to promote a plan Democrats bitterly oppose and many Republicans have concerns about, Bush em phasized that personal accounts would provide a better rate of return and allow some senior citizens to leave a nest egg for their children.

Bush faces an uphill battle in Congress, where politicians are cautious about tinkering with Social Security, a politically sensitive program that provides benefits to 45 million Americans, with millions more nearing retirement.

"It used to be called the third rail of American politics.

If you touched it you'd be shocked—sometimes shocked out of politics," Bush said.

The president launched his bid for the biggest overhaul of Social Security since its creation 70 years ago in his State of the Union speech on Wednesday and said he was willing to consider any possible solutions except raising payroll taxes.

"I fully recognize a personal retirement account is not the only thing needed... to solve Social Security permanently," Bush told an audience of about 7,000 in Omaha, Nebraska.

"But it's a part of a solution. And I believe I have a responsibility as someone who has put the issue on the table to be a constructive voice in coming up with a solution that will save Social Security for younger workers," he said.

During his tour, Bush has sought to calm fears among some of the elderly that his proposal might jeopardize their benefits by saying that "nothing changes" for retirees or those nearing retirement.

Bush's proposal would create private retirement accounts that would allow workers to invest part of their Social Security taxes in stocks and bonds.

Opponents have launched an aggressive advertising campaign against Bush's plan. The Republican National Committee sent a letter to television stations asking them not to run a Moveon.org advertisement it said "falsely and maliciously" portrayed Bush's plan.

Bush, in an effort to win over Democrats from Republican-leaning states, promoted his proposal in Nebraska, Arkansas and Florida on Friday, after stopping in Montana and North Dakota on Thursday.

Various options for retooling Social Security that have been considered in the past are back on the table, Bush said in his State of the Union address. Those include limiting benefits for wealthy retirees, indexing benefits to prices rather than wages, increasing the retirement age and discouraging early collection of benefits. *Reuters*

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A CHILD'S PRAYER. A young Polish girl prays for the Polish Pope during a mass at the Polish Saint Stanislaw church, in Rome, Friday. AFP

US government's $280-B suit vs tobacco giants goes up in smoke

WASHINGTON—An appeals court Friday rejected the US government's $280-billion claim against the tobacco industry for allegedly plotting to cover up the risks of smoking.

The 2-1 decision by a panel found that the case, which sought to recover government health care costs, cannot be brought under federal racketeering laws, which were written to deny ill-gotten gains from organized crime.

The suit was initially filed in 1999 by the US Department of Justice against the major tobacco companies, claiming they engaged in a fraudulent pattern of covering the dangers of tobacco use and marketing to minors.

The ruling would halt efforts to recover massive monetary damages from the industry. But the trial may continue and the government could conceivably pursue other remedies or seek a settlement with cigarette makers.

The justice department declined to indicate whether it appeal the decision. It may seek another appellate court review or bring an appeal to the US Supreme Court.

"All we're saying today is that we have received the ruling and are reviewing it," a spokesperson said.

Defendants included Philip Morris USA; RJ Reynolds Tobacco; Loews Corp.'s Lorillard Tobacco; Brown and William-son, which was part of British American Tobacco PLC and later merged with RJ Reynolds; and the Vector Group's Liggett Group.

The court ruled that the government cannot sue under the civil Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act and seek so-called "disgorgement" of past revenues and profits as a remedy.

Judge David Sentelle wrote in his ruling that "disgorgement is not an available remedy under (the law); even if disgorgement were available, the government's model fails the... test for permissible disgorgement that will 'prevent and restrain' future violations."

The tobacco companies went to the appeals court last year after the trial judge in US District Court rejected a so-called summary dismissal.

RJ Reynolds applauded the decision.

"We are extremely pleased that the appellate court agreed with our long-held belief that disgorgement is not an appropriate remedy in civil RICO suits, such as this," said Charles Blixt, executive vice president and general counsel for RJ Reynolds.

"This ruling dramatically transforms the DOJ suit. While we continue to believe that no remedies are warranted under the facts of this case, with the threat of disgorgement removed, the principal remedies still available to the government are forward-looking measures. These would include marketing and sales restrictions already put in place by our company and others under the Master Settlement Agreement" with a number of US states to recover the cost of smoking-related illnesses. *AFP*

Pope may make broadcast from hospital Sunday

ROME—Technicians from Vatican Radio on Saturday began making arrangements for a possible live weekend transmission from the hospital room where Pope John Paul II is reported to be recovering from an acute respiratory infection.

Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls said he would make an announcement later Saturday on whether the Pontiff would make a worldwide broadcast of his Sunday "Angelus" greeting and prayer from his hospital bed.

The Catholic diocese of Rome appealed to Catholics to go to St. Peter's Square on Sunday to recite the Angelus with the Pope, promising that there would be a hookup with the Gemelli Catholic hospital where the Pontiff is being treated.

Navarro-Valls said the Pope was "very attached" to the weekly ceremony, which gives him an opportunity to speak informally to the faithful from the window of his apartment overlooking St. Peter's Square, and was determined not to miss it.

His last public appearance before his illness was at the Angelus ceremony last Sunday, when he appeared at his apartment window with some children and released a dove as a symbol of peace.

The Pope's deputy for the Rome diocese, Cardinal Camillo Ruini, is also scheduled to attend the Angelus ceremony on Sunday, which will be dedicated to a pro-life campaign promoted by the Italian conference of bishops.

The question was whether the Pope has sufficiently recovered his voice after a sharp attack of flu and a respiratory infection that impeded his breathing.

Navarro-Valls said the Pope was "eating regularly," indicating that the infection had receded, after having earlier announced he was able to start sipping water.

The 84-year-old Pope, a sufferer from Parkinson's disease, was rushed to the Gemelli hospital on Tuesday when influenza turned into a respiratory infection that impeded his breathing.

Asked by journalists what John Paul was eating, Navarro-Valls suggested the Pope was well enough to take his usual morning coffee. "I arrived this morning at breakfast time and I saw the traditional cafe latte, things like that," he said. He declined to add a single word to the bare-bones communique on the pope's health issued by the Vatican. *AFP*

Mandela calls on G7 to cancel African debt

LONDON—South Africa's former president Nelson Mandela issued a vibrant appeal Friday to Group of Seven finance ministers for 100 percent debt cancelation for Africa and a sharp increase in annual financial aid.

"We need action on 100 percent debt cancelation, multilateral as well as bilateral, to remove the burdens of the past to allow people to be free," Mandela told ministers from seven of the world's richest countries, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

"Africa cannot have economic stability until you provide 100 percent debt relief and you have the ability to do that today."

Mandela also insisted that development aid should not be delivered piecemeal—"not small amounts here and there, now and then... but a doubling in aid, another 50 billion dollars each and every year until 2015."

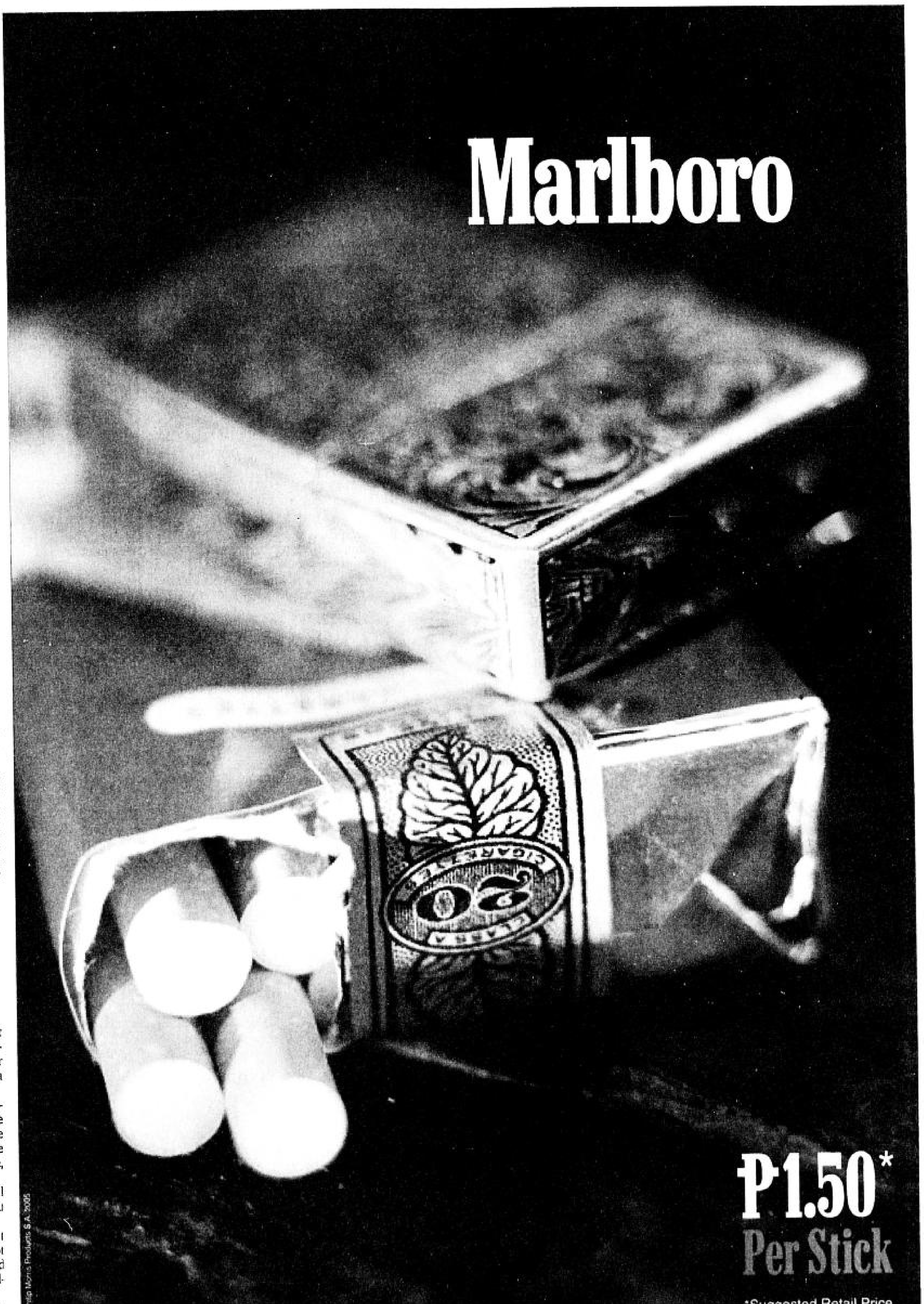
"So I urge you to act tonight, do not delay when poor people continue to suffer."

The United Nations in 2000 adopted what it called Millennium Development Goals, which aim to halve the proportion of people living on less than $1 a day by 2015.

G7 ministers and central bankers are to hold formal talks here Saturday on currency questions and prospects for global growth.

But several ambitious anti-poverty initiatives have also been under discussion, notably a massive "Marshall Plan" for Africa—combining billions of dollars in financial aid along with trade benefits and debt relief—proposed by Britain.

"We need action on all fronts, like the Marshall Plan for Africa that Gordon (British Chancellor of the Exchegeur Gordon Brown) has spoken about," said Mandela. *AFP*



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Rice moves to allay European fears of preemptive US air strike on Iran

BERLIN—US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, seeking to allay European fears of a preemptive US strike on Iran's nuclear sites, said Friday an attack "is simply not on the agenda at this point."

Rice made her remarks in London at the start of a tour of Europe where concern has been expressed that the hardening US rhetoric against Iran could herald military action to knock out its nuclear capabilities.

"The question is simply not on the agenda at this point," Rice told a news conference after talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

"We have diplomatic means to do this," she said, citing the possibility of action by the UN Security Council among them. "We have many diplomatic tools still at our disposal and we intend to pursue them fully."

Britain, Germany and France are engaged in halting efforts to persuade Iran to renounce any nuclear weapons ambitions and have eschewed the use of force against the Islamic Republic.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder had what he called "extensive discussions" with Rice on Iran and said later the Europeans would do "everything and anything to come to a diplomatic and political solution."

Some Europeans have voiced complaints the United States was keeping its distance from the negotiations but Straw insisted the world community was united in its determination to rein in Iran's nuclear activities.

"Absolutely fundamental to the international consensus has been the support we have received in the IAEA (the UN's Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency) board and in many other ways from the United States, he said.

"It's been a joint diplomatic effort, albeit three countries are directly involved in the negotiations."

Washington has ratcheted up its rhetoric against Iran in recent days, with Rice using unusually strong language Thursday to rap Tehran's human rights record as "something to be loathed."

Although Rice has side-stepped questions whether the United States supported outright regime change in Tehran, a senior state department official signaled a more aggressive US tone in support of pro-democracy elements in Iran. *AFP*

Nepalese urged to rally vs king

KATMANDU—Former Nepal prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala called Friday on the country's citizens to take to the streets to restore democracy in the wake of King Gyanendra's seizure of power.

The appeal by Koirala, who served four times as premier of the Himalayan nation, was the first call for demonstrations by a mainstream politician since Gyanendra dismissed Sher Bahadur Deuba and his government Tuesday, saying it had failed to crush a Maoist revolt and hold elections.

"I call upon all the pro-democratic journalists, political workers, youths and students and Nepalese brothers and sisters to oppose this unconstitutional step of the king," Koirala said.

"I call upon them to take to the streets to restore the sovereign power of the people and safeguard the constitution of 1990," he said in a statement in Nepali that was given to AFP by a party worker known to the news agency.

In 1990, seven weeks of demonstrations and riots forced the king's late brother Birendra to bow to demands from democracy activists and led to the establishment of parliamentary government.

Koirala, who is under house arrest, called Gyanendra's seizure of power and declaration of emergency rule "a flagrant violation of the agreement reached in 1990 between late King Birendra and the Nepalese people."

Birendra was slain in a palace massacre four years ago by a drunk-and-drug fueled prince that vaulted Gyanendra to power.

Koirala's appeal came after the kingdom's army chief said security forces battling Maoist rebels would be told to uphold human rights but warned that guerrillas face tough action if they refuse Gyanendra's offer of peace talks.

Security forces should not "harbor any illusions about... having unlimited powers during the state of emergency," army chief of staff Gen. Pyar Jung Thapa said after international right groups voiced fears of abuses. *AFP*

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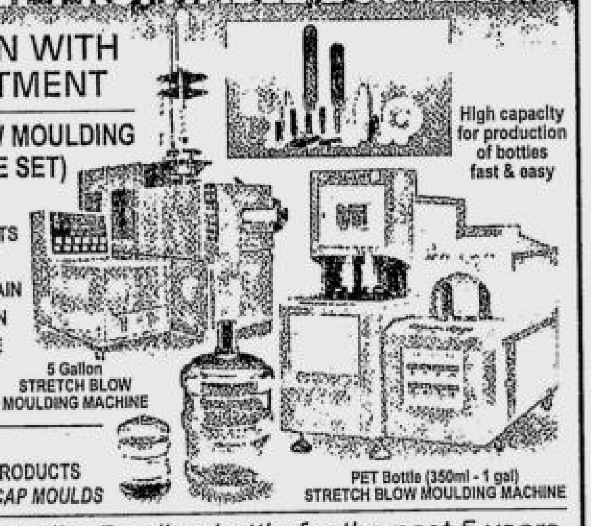

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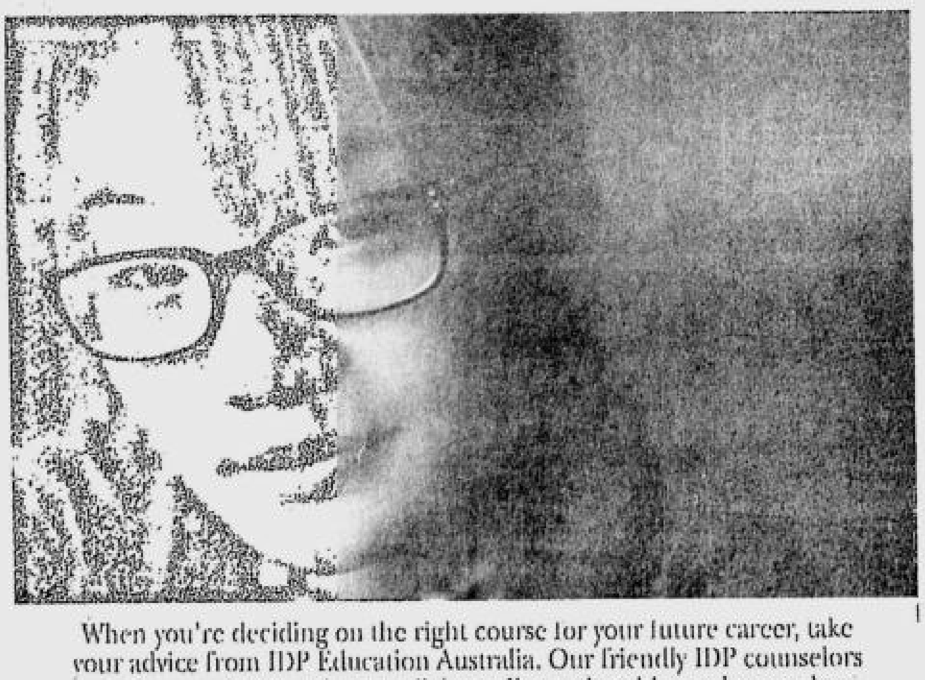

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Japanese dies of mad cow disease

TOKYO—A man who spent time in Britain was confirmed Friday to be the first Japanese person to die from mad cow disease, but health authorities said there was no risk from meat in Japan.

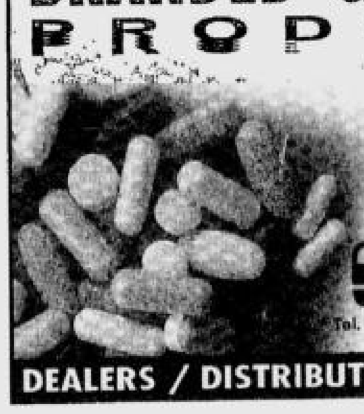
"The man appeared to have been infected overseas, although we must investigate," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda, the Japanese government spokesperson, told a news conference.

The victim showed symptoms of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in which patients lose control of bodily functions as the brain wastes away, a health ministry official said.

An emergency meeting of ministry experts concluded the man likely contracted the condition in Britain, where nearly all the world's human mad cow cases have occurred, and dismissed the possibility of an outbreak in Japan.

"People will not be infected with the disease in normal daily life," the official said.

Japan in September 2001 became the only Asian country to have reported mad cow disease in its own herd and has since screened every cow slaughtered for consumption, requiring meat producers to remove body parts with higher risk. *AFP*



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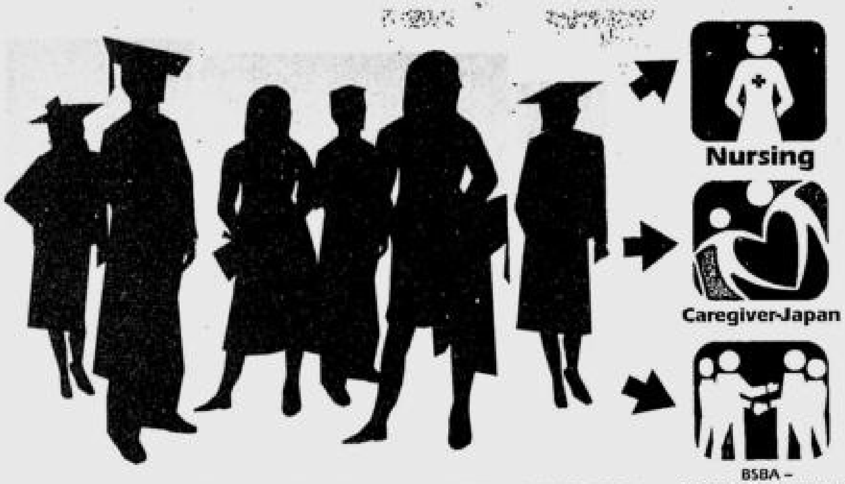

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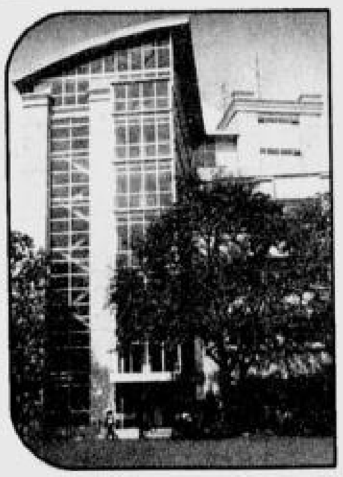

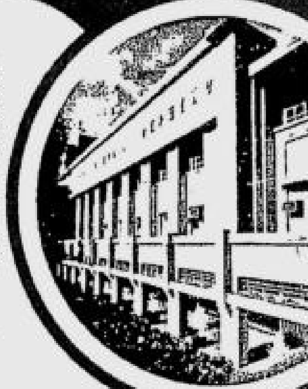

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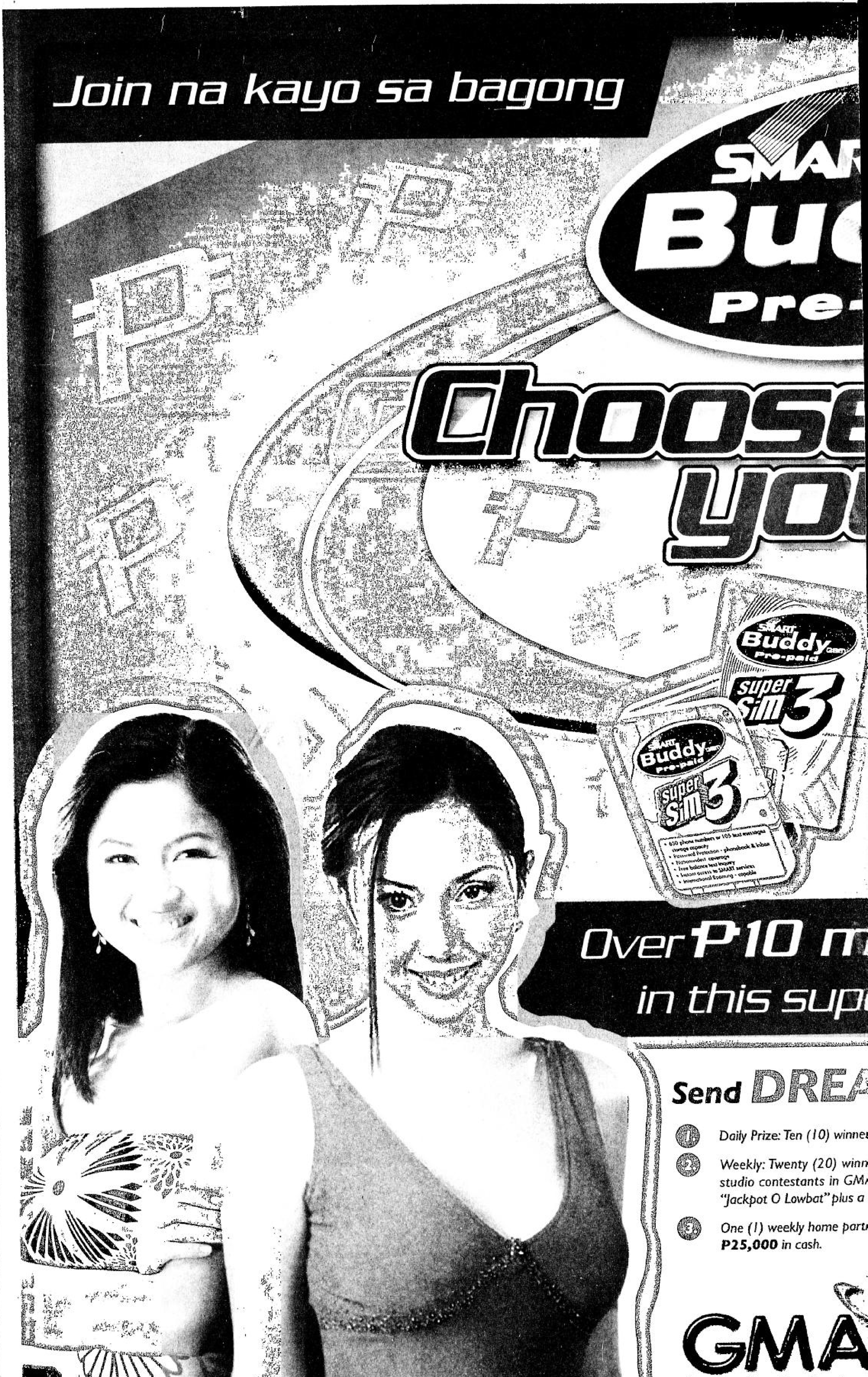
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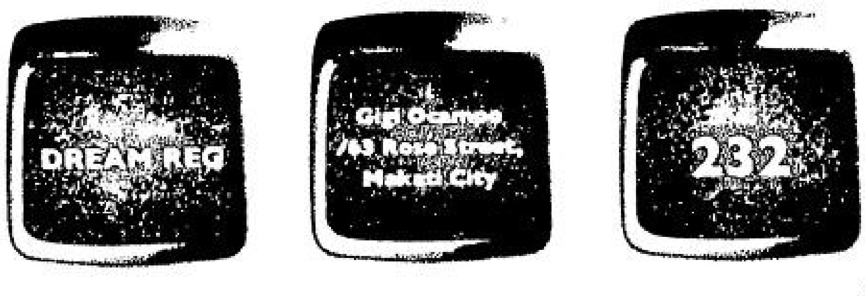

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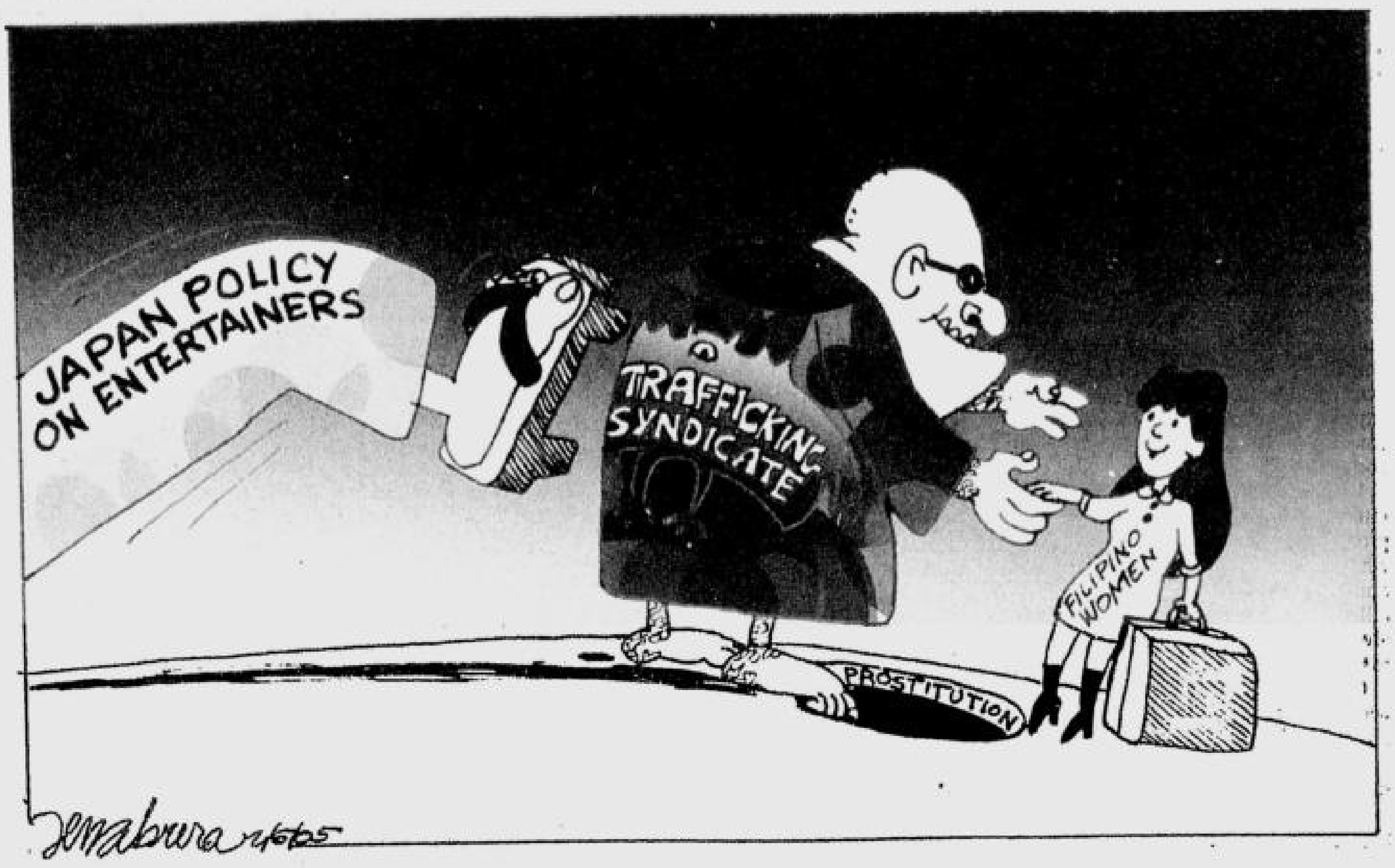

Reforming media

EDITORIAL

OVER A HUNDRED journalists gathered in Tagaytay this weekend to discuss, yet again, the problems vexing the Philippine media. Should the public even care?

We all should, because as the "media summit" made clear all over again, journalists do not only mirror reality; they sometimes shape it.

To be sure, a recurring theme that echoed throughout the two days of the conference emphasized the opposite: Reality, it was said over and over again, is the main force that shapes both journalists and the journalism they practice. In particular, commercial reality, or the pursuit of ever higher ratings, was said to drive much of the thinking behind today's television programming.

As a network owner admitted, with conspicuous understatement, media organizations don't live in an ideal world. He meant that the profit imperative was an unavoidable part of the programming mix. He needn't have been so apologetic. In this day and age, a healthy bottom line may yet be the best guarantee of a free press, of editorial independence.

The necessary question, of course, is: What have media organizations done with their independence? The answers, even from those organizations who say that the news and public affairs department is the flagship of their fleet, are not uniformly satisfactory.

A quick and by-no-means-complete roundup of answers: A tsunami of entertainment programs racing to overtake the news flagship. Blood and gore stories swamping newspaper pages. Trivia swollen to ridiculous proportions. Politics mistaken for show business. Incidents of sound bite journalism on the rise. And so on and so forth.

Are these trends merely the reflection of reality? To a certain extent, yes. The coverage, for instance, of two immature government officials exchanging, and then retracting, heated words in public may strike some as trivial, but triviality and immaturity in high government office are in fact legitimate stories. It is in the public's interest to know.

But taken together, the trends go beyond mere mirroring. The very choice of stories, the decision to give one story larger play than another, the under-emphasis of other issues: All these are (and to borrow the evocative language of basketball) judgment calls. The sooner the media and the public come to terms with this truth, the better the chances that media organizations will in fact serve the public interest.

One development the conference gave voice to bodes well for the future of an engaged and financially viable media committed to serious journalism: the growing support for the idea of the media as a beat in itself.

Media organizations have become centers of both local and national power. Not only do more and more people see them as a substitute for government, especially in social welfare and in administration of justice issues. Media organizations also and all too often affect the climate of governance.

It is only right that the media be held accountable for the power it wields. One way to do that is to encourage coverage of media institutions and media issues—in other words, to treat media as a beat. The practice in other countries shows the way: reporters assigned to cover media, analysts and columnists dedicated to the critique of media.

To the public's benefit, government and big business drink the media's own tonic of close scrutiny and enlightened skepticism; the time has come for the media to drink from the same cup.

Definitely brutal

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE AMERICAN Congress and State Department and the European Parliament have declared that the Sudanese government's military campaign in Darfur amounts to genocide. The United Nations begs to disagree, accusing Khartoum and its allied militias of atrocities that fall short of that crime as defined by the 1948 convention. It is probably true to say that the government did not embark on operations in the western region with the intention of eliminating its sedentary population.

Yet each day the line between that brutal campaign and genocide becomes thinner. Despite numerous appeals for peace, Khartoum is stepping up an offensive aimed not so much at the two rebel groups as the civilian population. Studying data from various sources, Jan Coebergh, a doctor who has worked in Darfur, estimates that the death toll there is about 300,000, well above the commonly quoted figure of 70,000. Whatever the truth, the escalation of the conflict is rapidly pushing up the total.

Daily Telegraph (London)

Justice with mercy

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

DESPITE my repeated reminders that I am no longer in the active practice of my profession, I continue to receive requests from some of my readers to handle their cases. Many even send me thick documents for me to read, hoping to persuade me to represent them or at least to advise them on what to do with their legal problems.

Unfortunately, I cannot find the time or the energy to study their individual complaints, which are mostly already being handled by their respective counsel. In effect, many of them are asking me to interfere with my brother lawyers, who would have reason to resent my meddling and their clients' lack of confidence in them. I presume, of course, that their attorneys are doing their work well and all these readers are asking from me is a second opinion. I regret I cannot oblige.

I became a lawyer 53 years ago last Friday and my number in the Attorney's Roll is a low 3575. It has been a thrilling career for me and I am grateful to God and all those who have helped me along the way. The years have slowed me down as they must all of us, but I am thankfully not yet totally inactive. I still occasionally feel that burst of enthusiasm that fires the spirit and whips the blood of the convert enamored by the mystique of the Law.

Only recently, I wrote in this column about that decision in favor of a city that provoked two motions for reconsideration both denied by the Supreme Court. Entry of judgment was duly made, and the decision was partially enforced by the winning party. The losing party filed a third motion for reconsideration which was granted by the Court; it also allowed the final and executor decision to be appealed to the *banc* in violation of its own rules. Worst of all, the Supreme Court reversed the Second Division, which had acted on behalf of the entire Court, and ruled in favor of the respondent.

It is cases like this that make me speak out, not as a retained and active lawyer but as an ordinary observer of the administration of justice in this country. Courts are presumptively competent and honest but there are times when the rules prescribed for their proper conduct are ignored if not wantonly violated, sometimes by the High Tribunal itself. That is when I find it necessary to speak out but not as an intentional fault-finder of the judges. I do this as a member of the Bar anxious to correct or prevent, if I can, excesses or errors of the Bench.

In that curious case, the Court allowed a third motion for reconsideration and granted it after denying the two previous motions with finality. It accepted referral of the decision of the Second Division to the *banc* despite the prohibition in its own SC Circular No. 2-89. Even after the decision had already been recorded in the Book of Entry of Judgment and already partially executed, it was reversed by the Supreme Court which remanded the case back to the trial court. The city was not even allowed to comment on the third motion for reconsideration, if only to stress that it was prohibited by the Rules of Court.

Only recently, I called attention to a case where the Supreme Court described the Court of Tax Appeals as a quasi-judicial body despite its earlier pronouncement that it was a court of justice. Prof. Bartolome C. Fernandez was quick to add that Sec. 16 of the Administrative Code of 1987 includes the Court of Tax Appeals among the lower courts in which judicial power is vested. That undeniable error of the Supreme Court may cause a credible law student to flunk the bar examinations for believing in the infallibility of the justices composing the High Tribunal.

Speaking of the bar examinations, I remember the time I interceded for a student who had received a rating of 74.9980 percent and was considered flunked. She moved for reconsideration, respectfully showing that her computation of her grade gave her the passing average of 75 percent. Her motion was denied, the Court preferring the computation made by the Bar Confidant. I discussed the matter with Chief Justice Hilario Davide, who gave me the impression that he agreed with the petitioner. In the end, however, he said that the Court had refused to change its original denial.

More serious is the case of another flunker in the same 2003 bar examinations who received a grade of 74.9990 percent and was considered Failed. His motion for reconsideration was originally denied but was later referred to the Bar Confidant who as of Nov. 8, 2004, date of his letter to me, had not yet submitted her required report and recommendation to the Court. Like my student, the petitioner demonstrated that his own computation would give him the passing grade of 75 percent.

Regardless of the merits of the conflicting computations, I suggest that the computations made by the Bar Confidant should be made with less rigidity in determining the student's fate in the bar examinations. The plea of the two students who missed the passing grade by only .001 percent and .002 percent deserves more compassion from the Supreme Court, which has itself committed its own more substantial mistakes. As Milton said in "Paradise Lost," justice should be tempered with mercy.

Making a difference

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about an adolescent coming home from school who casually asked her mother, "Mom, what is sex?" Rattled by her young daughter's question, the mother said, "My child, well, sex is... ah... well, it's something natural... ah... it's something which two people do... ah... to show their love for each other. Yeah, that's it!" The young girl looked at her in amazement and said, "Wow, that's a rather long sentence to put in the bio-data I'm filling in."

* * *

Adultery is the sin of adults, not so much in the sense of the sixth commandment, but in their tendency to adulterate truth, goodness and life itself. In today's gospel (Mt. 5, 13-16), Jesus tells us to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world." We often lose our potency as salt and light because, instead of being straight and simple, we become complicated and sophisticated. We no longer make a difference because instead of choosing the "road less traveled" we choose the road of comfort, success, lies, half-truths and easy compromises. Instead of becoming salt and light to worldly people, we often get sullied and blighted by them.

* * *

Did you ever wonder why Jesus told us to be salt, and not sugar? That's because sweetness can be faked. And so it is that we have artificial sugar and so many hypocrites so filled with niceties, lies and pretenses. More than sweet talk and sweet smiles, God is calling each and everyone of us to make a difference, and to be true to our commitments.

* * *

There is a story about a mental patient who was singing while he lay on his bed. Suddenly he stopped and turned his head face down, and then he started singing again. When asked by the nurse what happened, his reply was that he had switched to side B. "Side B" of being salt of the earth is being light of the world. It is not enough to be good. One must also do good deeds—and be a light for others—to see so that "they may see your good deeds and glorify your Heavenly Father." When people see and encounter you, do they glorify God? Do they remember God at all?

* * *

People who make a difference are not so much those who shine, but those who reflect God's light in their lives. In fact, some people shine too much that they no longer reflect the source of their light. Are you a reflector or a deflector of God's light? Do you convert, or do you divert and obvert God's light in your life?

* * *

How do we make a difference? If we translate "difference" in tagalog, we come up with the word "*diperensya*," which connotes not so much that something is different, but that something is wrong. Perhaps this can give us a clue on how we can be different or how we can make a difference—and that is being "wrong" or being "fools" in the eyes of the world. The reason why we never really make a difference is that we conform to the ways, values and standards of the world. The bottom line is, at the end of our lives, did we make a difference in people's lives because we encountered them? Did we make a difference in this world because we passed by? This should lead us to another clue: we can make a difference if we are truly aware that we are just passing by.

* * *

Rotary Club of Urdaneta North president Budee Sison thought of making something different this Lenten Season by inviting Rotarians and guests to "An evening of light moments with Fr. Jerry" on Feb. 19. This will be held at the Balikbayan Hall, Urdaneta City, which will start with a 5:30 p.m. Mass, followed by a recollection, dinner and fellowship. The proceeds will be for our Filipino missionaries overseas. Yes, let's all try to be salt and light in whatever we are doing, wherever we are.

* * *

Let us all say a fervent prayer for our dear Pope John Paul II, someone who is truly a salt and light of this world, an inspiration for all of us.

* * *

Feb. 9 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. We are all reminded again that we are "dust, and to dust we will return." In our own simple and truthful ways, let us all "repent and believe in the Gospel." May we also as a nation and as a people, starting with our leaders, change our deceitful and greedy ways.

* * *

Feb. 9 is also the Chinese New Year. Wishing all of us a better new year in all aspects, in Jesus' name. We all want good health, long life, prosperity and progress; but more than these, let us wish for peaceful, meaningful and substantial lives.

* * *

Batanes, once more with feeling! A pilgrimage to Batanes is scheduled on Feb. 16-18. For particulars, please call 721-7457 or 523-8581. What attracts people to Batanes? It's the beauty, simplicity and serenity of the place and its people. Yes, simple is beautiful.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me make a difference by living a life of substance (salt) and good deeds (light). Amen.

* * *

E-mail: jorbos@manila-online.net

Who will be the real Customs chief?

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST week, President Macapagal-Arroyo unveiled her new economic management team. Former Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima was moved to the Department of Finance replacing Juanita Amatong. Juan Santos, former Nestlé Philippines chair, took over the Department of Trade and Industry; while Raphael Lotilla was appointed energy secretary in place of Vince Perez. My good friend, Alberto Lina was named customs commissioner, taking over from George Jereos who is set to retire on Feb. 22. The Palace also announced that it had prevailed upon Bureau of Internal Revenue commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. to remain at his post. Hmm....was he thinking of leaving?

The appointments were generally well received by the business community. In the case of Bert Lina, there was some concern because his business interests include freight and cargo-forwarding operations which are customs-related activities. I have no doubt that Bert will do what is expected of him in terms of divestment, and I congratulate him for the great sacrifice that he is about to make.

With the wealth of experience that he has accumulated over the years, Bert should have no problem moving into his new position. It was Bert who built up a small outfit, Airfreight 2001, into one of the country's top corporations with over a billion pesos in annual revenues. But customs has always been a different ball game and it will test to the limit all the skills and expertise of the man.

One of the warning signs I am seeing along the way has to do with a relatively obscure executive order from Malacañang. I hope that Bert is aware of this order and is familiar with its various provisions.

Executive Order No. 297 created the Office of the Anti-Smuggling Presidential Adviser (OASPA). This is a Cabinet-level office, tasked to orchestrate a consolidated anti-smuggling campaign. Interior Secretary Angelo T. Reyes has been designated as the "adviser." His job is to provide advice and recommendations to the President on matters relating to acts contrary to the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (RA 1937) which are: (1) large scale (involving at least P5 million), or (2) committed by a syndicate (a group of three or more persons). But aside from advising the President, the order also directs him to "execute programs of action" to prevent and suppress smuggling, arrest smugglers and cause their prosecution. In fact, the anti-smuggling presidential adviser (ASPA) is mandated to discharge a number of line functions. Let me enumerate just a few of them: (1) Direct the conduct of anti-smuggling intelligence operations; (2) exercise operational supervision and control over anti-smuggling agencies and task forces; (3) cause or direct the immediate investigation and speedy prosecution of smuggling cases; (4) grant monetary rewards and incentives to informants for vital information in the prosecution of smuggling suspects; (5) exercise powers of search and seizure pursuant to a special written authorization issued by the customs commissioner. This is probably one of the few instances where an adviser also executes action programs.

The executive order also provides for an oversight committee to ensure the active participation of all agencies in anti-smuggling programs. The committee is chaired by the ASPA with the finance secretary as vice chair. The other members are the secretaries of the interior and local governments, national defense, justice, agriculture, trade and industry, and transportation and communications. In addition, the adviser will have an executive committee responsible for day-to-day operations. The committee will be composed of the ASPA as chair, and with the customs commissioner as vice chair. The other members will include the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the chief of the Philippine National Police, and the director of the the National Bureau of Investigation.

Funding for the OASPA will come from the Office of the President, and this could mean anywhere from P100 million to P500 million, mostly intelligence outlays. Already, Reyes has established a modest presence inside customs territory, right next to the customs commissioner's office. This may indicate that he is preparing for the long haul.

In his role as anti-kidnapping czar, Reyes proved to be a huge success. The number of kidnap-for-ransom cases has gone down considerably, and even the Filipino-Chinese community has not been heard from regarding this problem. If he can replicate this success in his job as anti-smuggling czar, arresting one or two big-time smugglers and presenting them in a police lineup as he did with suspected kidnappers, he will earn the gratitude and respect of the nation. Reyes' failure to hurdle the Commission on Appointments could still leave him with a powerful, Cabinet-level position.

So where does this all leave Bert Lina? The Revised Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), also referred to as Presidential Decree No. 1464, says that the Bureau of Customs is responsible for "the prevention and suppression of smuggling and other frauds upon the customs." There are a hundred lawyers in this country who would argue that an executive order can never overturn presidential decrees which have not been repealed by Congress.

Will Bert Lina wear the crown while someone else pulls the strings? There will be two centers of power in the bureau. In time, the customs people will figure out who of them has the clout. Then will emerge the real customs commissioner.

Aceh's many tears

COMMENTARY

Djorina Velasco

IT took a killer tsunami to put Aceh on the world map.

The scale and magnitude of human suffering in Aceh goes beyond any natural disaster we have experienced on our shores. Of the more than 200,000 deaths caused by the South Asian killer wave, about two-thirds are found in Aceh. Indonesian authorities have already given up on counting and identifying corpses. The names of victims buried in mass graves will forever be lost.

Unlike Phuket and the Maldives, Aceh is not a tourist spot. There are no posh beach-side resorts. This is not because Aceh has no sights to offer to travelers. It is because Aceh is a war zone.

The people of Aceh are no strangers to pain and hardship. Even before the televised images of tsunami victims flooded the world, Aceh was already a land of too many tears. Estimates range from 10,000 to 20,000 lives lost in intermittent fighting between the separatist rebels and the Indonesian military since 1976.

To date, the government in Jakarta has allocated almost $145 million in emergency aid for Aceh for 2005. (It is estimated that about $2 billion will be needed to rehabilitate Aceh over the next five years.) Contrast this to close to the $215 million spent on military operations in the province in the last 18 months alone.

What is this conflict all about?

The Acehnese struggle is not just about ethnic "tensions." And although the independence movement is aspiring for an Islamic state, religion alone is not what fuels the fighting. The roots of the conflict are found in history. Like Muslim Mindanao, Aceh never fully succumbed to colonial rule. Yet, although both Aceh and Mindanao have been shortchanged by the re-drawing of borders after World War II, the conflicts that have bedeviled the two are not the same.

For once, there is the shockingly high incidence of severe human rights abuses by the Indonesian military. Name any assault to a person's dignity and life, Aceh has it: indiscriminate "checkpoint" operations, arbitrary detention, rape, torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, extrajudicial executions and disappearances. It is indeed ironic that the Indonesian government was quick to join in the universal condemnation of US abuses at Abu Ghraib, while systematic torture of suspected rebels and sympathizers continues in its own backyard. Needless to say that all this happens in the name of "fighting terrorism."

Aceh has been placed under martial law several times. The longest period was from 1989 to 1998. But in reality, the bloodshed and arbitrary harassment of civilians and activists continue whether emergency rule is declared or not. Even after the lifting of the year-long martial law in May 2004, the 40,000 troops were not withdrawn. In fact, another 15,000 troops were sent in to assist in disaster relief. Already the military is being accused of eyeing new counter-insurgency offensives while facilitating aid delivery.

The Acehnese freedom fighters cannot claim a spotless human rights record for themselves either. The Free Aceh Movement, the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka, or GAM for short, is an armed guerrilla force that has engaged in targeted killings of suspected government informers. It has its own tax collection system and it does not hesitate to administer this forcefully.

Caught in the crossfire is, of course, the civilian population. The number of the internally displaced have risen to several thousands before the tsunami; it has swelled to half a million people in the aftermath of the disaster (out of a total population of 4.2 million).

The other dimension of the conflict is economics. The economic potential of Mindanao is unquestioned—yet it remains just that, an underdeveloped potential. Aceh, by contrast, is one of Indonesia's top dollar earners. In the 1990s, 40 percent of the world's liquefied natural gas supply came from Aceh. Oil fields yield millions of dollars in sales a day—yet so little trickle down to the local population. In 2003, 40 percent of the population was considered poor. It is only natural that the Acehnese want to benefit from the wealth of their homeland.

What makes the situation in Aceh frustrating is the lack of a clear political vision that is capable of galvanizing the same kind of international support that made an independent East Timor possible. The complications are too overwhelming.

The Acehnese student and women's movements are staunch advocates of peace. Their calls for an end to human rights abuses are a necessary condition for meaningful dialogue to begin. There is also an acrive movement calling for a referendum to determine the territory's political future. But what comes next?

On the one hand, the Acehnese find the present relations between Aceh and the central government untenable. The "special province" status is far from the promise of substantive autonomy. On the other hand, Hassan di Tiro, the self-exiled leader of the Acehnese independence movement based in Sweden, is calling for the return of the Acehnese sultanate the way it was in the 16th century. There seems to be no middle ground between GAM and Jakarta.

The world's donations are direly needed to sustain immediate emergency relief and re-build infrastructure in the long term. This is very clear. But aside from physical rehabilitation and logistical assistance, Aceh also needs to be rebuilt politically. What kind of political solidarity is required to support our Acehnese brothers' and sisters' aspirations for peace, participation and self-determination? How might we help in imagining a new political horizon that can bring true democracy to Aceh?

No place on earth deserves the merciless destruction of a tsunami this brutal. But the fact that it hit Aceh is a tragedy that stabs already bleeding hearts.

Djorina Velasco heads the Democracy Watch department of the Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD), a non-profit NGO based in Quezon City. She traveled to Aceh in 2000 to participate in a meeting of the Support Committee for Human Rights in Aceh.

Unnecessary cruelty

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

WHATEVER good the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has done has been marred by its unnecessary cruelty toward the poor and by its disregard of the law. Unfortunately, many people, mostly the well-off, support the MMDA's manner of treating the poor. Cruelty erodes people's trust and respect for one another and saps their willingness to work together. "Social capital," sociologists call these qualities which are a poor country's best hope of progress.

Take the case of Aling Delia Rosaroso. Aling Delia is a young mother of two. She works each day in a store. Her husband is a police trainee. For some time, they had lived literally under a bridge on Quezon Boulevard, near the Pegasus Club. The "home" there was dark. There was no electricity. It had a dirt floor, and there was the constant din of traffic above. And the stench from the river. Her family had intended to move to a house in Fairview and had saved the money needed.

On Jan. 21, the same day the newspapers came out with reports on President Macapagal-Arroyo distributing De Soto collateral certificates in Welfareville, Aling Delia and nine neighboring families were rendered homeless. That day, two trucks of an MMDA demolition team went to their place and told them: "It is illegal to live under a bridge." Remember Lord Macauley's sarcastic comment about equal justice under British Law for the rich and the poor—the law was fair, because it made living under a bridge illegal for both the rich and the poor.

The demolition team knocked down the houses; and after gathering all the housing materials and everything found inside the houses—shoes, fans, clothes including the children's school uniforms, furniture, pots and plates—into one big pile, soaked them with gasoline and then burned them. Some families lost money. The MMDA also took the pedicabs and scavenger carts. What the MMDA did was not only illegal. The burning of the families' personal belongings was a special form of torture. Aling Delia said she and her neighbors could only watch helpless as their "little treasures" went up in smoke. "We were afraid. We worried about the children, where we could find a new place to sleep," she narrated. When asked if she and the others were angry, she said they were too scared to even feel anger.

The demolition of 10 houses may appear to be a minor thing compared to the calamity that descended on Quezon Province late last year. But in the case of Aling Delia and her neighbors, it was deliberately caused by government, which adds official malice to injury. As usual, the MMDA proceeded with the demolition without prior notice and without providing a relocation site, as required by law.

According to the Urban Poor Associates, the MMDA has refused to relocate about 2,000 families it has evicted from their homes, in violation of the country's laws and UN covenants.

Three of the families have homes in Towerville, a government relocation site. But they had to live under the bridge so the children could be near their school and the adults could be near their place of work. Towerville is their home only on weekends. There's nothing to scavenge there.

Obviously, the government has not learned from its relocation experiences: An average of 30-40 percent—in some cases it goes up to 80 percent—of the relocated families go back to their "original" homes. People stay in relocation areas for good only if life turns out better there than in the squatter area left behind. In 1993, President Ramos had realized this; he said he would not relocate anyone except to a better place.

Was it necessary to burn the families' belongings? With this question in our minds, let's look further back into the past: Was it necessary to confiscate the street vendors' stalls and their means of livelihood, and to threaten to pour gasoline on the fruits and vegetables and the other wares they were selling? Is it now necessary to use the "wet rag" on ordinary people who, after a long day's work, are only trying to get home? Only someone who has never waited for a ride in the rain in a pressing crowd can accept the "wet-rag mauling." Does any other country in the world insults its people as gratuitously?

The MMDA has made cruelty its signature, especially cruelty to the poor. And the MMDA's cruel actions encourage poor people to eye the government with deep suspicion. Many already do: following several fires in Baseco and elsewhere I asked the victims, what started the fire? At least 50-60 percent of them routinely say the government did.

We have seen much better ways of treating the poor. Ordinary drivers neither blow their horns on a scavenger pushing his *kariton* in the traffic nor tailgate or harass him. The drivers show remarkable patience for the scavenger, much more so than they show each other. They realize the poor man and his family have more than enough problems and the last thing he needs is a rich man's horn.

Are we so eager for results that we overlook government cruelty and lawlessness? Such a short-term outlook could lead to disastrous results on society in the long run—it diminishes the people's respect for the law and for those in authority.

In a poor country with few resources to help the poor materially, we can learn from a story in the Bible on how to deal with poverty. A crippled beggar outside the Temple asked the apostles Peter and John for alms. Peter said, "I have neither silver or gold, but what I have I can give you: in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, walk." We cannot cure but we can offer the poor—Christian or Muslim—compassion and understanding. The poor don't need cruelty. The country doesn't need it either.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

Repairing basic education

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WE all know there is something very wrong in the education of our children. Where the trouble lies and how we should repair it have been the subject of recurrent debate. Recently, a group of professors and researchers from the University of the Philippines offered their thoughts on this question in a position paper sent to the Department of Education and media. Their intervention signals the need to take a closer look at existing research in order to determine whether adding more years to the country's basic school system would solve the problem.

My own initial view is: By simply adding two more years of the same stuff taught in the same way in ill-equipped classrooms by the same ill-prepared and underpaid teachers to the same under-motivated and malnourished pupils may not remove us from the category in which we find ourselves today, together with the poorest African countries. But I keep an open mind.

Crucial to the analysis is isolating the key factors that affect children's performance at school. There are factors beyond the control of the school—like absentee parents and not having enough to eat. But of the variables within the sphere of educational reform, the following may be worth examining: teaching method, teacher preparedness, the curriculum, and the medium of instruction.

The proposal to increase the number of years is based on the single assumption that too much knowledge is being crammed into the existing 10-year basic program, giving rise to the need to layer or space the curriculum. I am sure there are studies that have already looked into the impact of such curricular congestion. Their findings must be considered in relation to studies that examine the effects of other factors like teaching style and medium of instruction. The UP education paper unfortunately does not go into these.

The position paper poses the question: "Could length of schooling be one reason for the dismal academic performance in local and international tests?" My UP colleagues answered the question only in an indirect way—by pointing out that the Philippines, with its six-year elementary and four-year high school programs, has one of the shortest basic education systems in the world. They did not offer empirical proof that the length of schooling is the most crucial factor in the performance of our students in international tests.

There is no question that adding more years to the 10-year basic education program will improve the test scores of our students. This seems to be supported by the limited success of the optional high school bridge program. But whether this is the best way to address the present deficiencies in the system remains unanswered. The tendency to cure problems of quality by adding quantity is so prevalent in our society that one cannot help but be skeptical.

As a teacher myself, I find that what is important in learning is not so much the amount of material one covers in a course but rather the clarity by which the most basic concepts are explained. Whether one is dealing with mathematical, aesthetic, or social science concepts, the quality of the interaction between teacher and student is crucial. The students should be free to ask for elaboration, without fear of censure or ridicule and in a language most meaningful to them. And the teacher should have the patience and, more important, the ability to explain the concepts. In this regard, I find that the use of a language that is foreign to both teacher and student can be a great barrier to understanding, and that the switch to a native language often goes a long way toward facilitating the learning process.

I suspect that, precisely because it is a second language to most of us, we tend to overestimate our relationship to English. That relationship is basically an artificial one; we still do not think in English and, maybe, never will, thank God. I won't be surprised if the most effective teachers of basic Mathematics in our country are those who do not hesitate to use a local language to explain concepts. Many conscientious teachers know this. They know that English is a key to modern and global learning, but they also know it can be a deterrent to learning.

English is all too often used by teachers to mask their own inability to grasp the concepts they are supposed to teach. They do not explain because they cannot. Instead they take refuge in seatwork, penalizing their students with interminable exercises on concepts they themselves do not understand.

I have seen this in many schools even at the tertiary level, where teachers carefully protect their own ignorance from exposure using the shield of an impenetrable language. They make their students copy entire books into their notebooks, and require them to memorize and recite portions of these. Their students learn nothing but the outer skin of ideas, unable to relate these to the circumstances of their lives.

I am aware that it may be counterintuitive to raise the issue of medium of instruction at a time when the siren song of call centers is seducing the country back to English. English is an important language, but it is a tool that can be acquired any time. Its acquisition must not impede or burden the learning process at the fundamental level.

We have gone a long way toward making our national life more inclusive by the extensive use of the Filipino language in the mass media and in public affairs. It would be tragic if our gains in these areas are nullified by the exclusion of large numbers of our children from the benefits of formal education because of English.

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

THEY SAID

Everything

"Timing is everything for anything."

—Former CNN bureau chief Maria Ressa

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Who will bear brunt of a VAT hike?

THE PROPOSED increase in the rate of the valued-added tax (VAT) from 10 to 12 percent has been called the "mother of all taxes" because it is expected to raise more than P35 billion a year.

That amount accounts for 44 percent of the P80 billion that Malacañang hopes to collect yearly should Congress pass eight tax measures.

Two measures have so far been passed by Congress—the excise tax on tobacco and alcohol products and the lateral attrition bill, which the chair of the House ways and means committee says would generate a total of P27 billion a year.

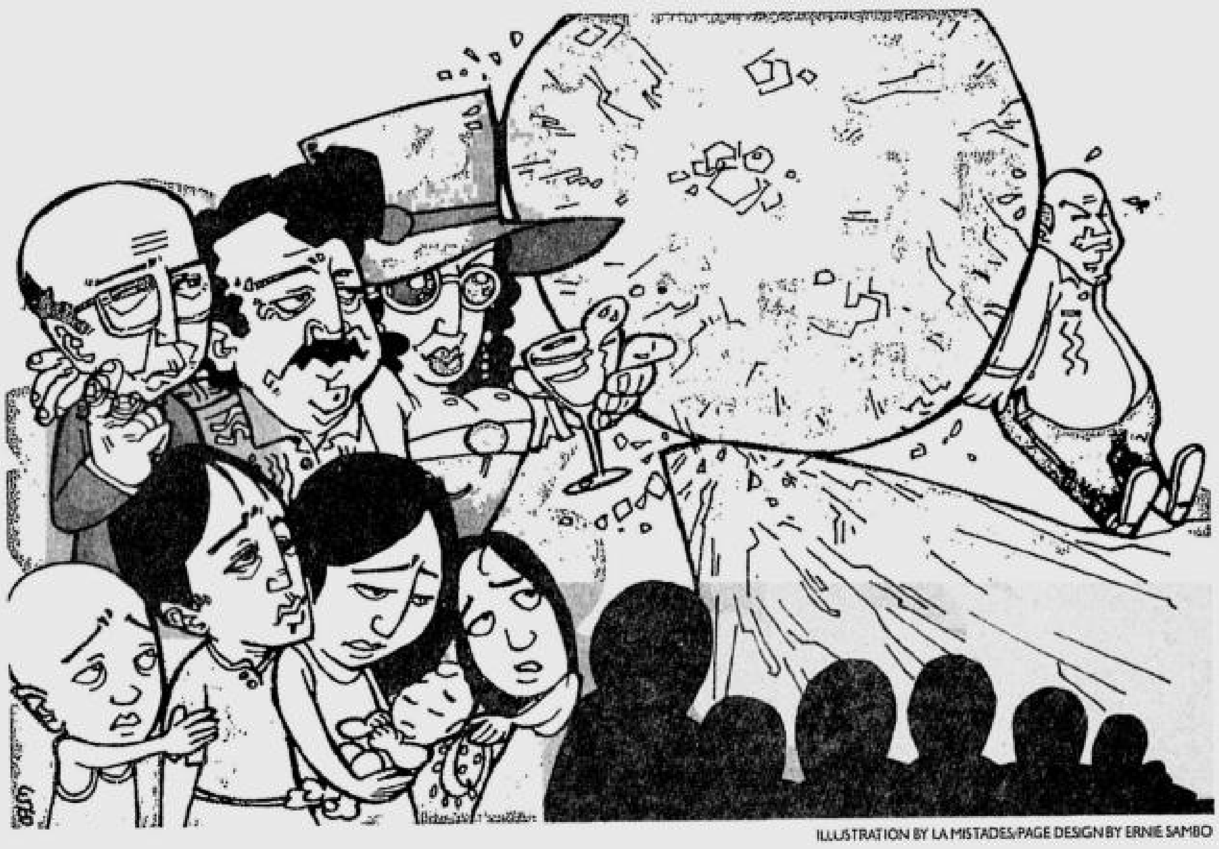
In pushing for a higher VAT rate, Malacañang and some administration lawmakers warn that the poor will suffer more in the ensuing fiscal crisis if the VAT rate is not increased.

The Department of Finance claims that a 12-percent VAT rate will have a minimal impact on the poor because they will pay an additional expense of only P65.22 a month.

Not so says the party-list group Bayan Muna, which claims that the poor will pay an additional P123.90 a month.

The chair of the House committee on economic affairs acknowledges that an increase in the VAT rate will "unfairly result in the overconcentration of the fiscal pain on working families." He estimates that the "broad middle class" will be hit by a total of P98.4 billion in taxes in one year just from the Napocor rate hike, duty on fuel products, sin taxes and the VAT hike.

He is proposing burden sharing and sequencing of certain tax measures to help the "broad middle class" endure a higher VAT rate.



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IneVATable, but the rich must also do their share

By Joey Sarte Salceda

Can we solve the fiscal crisis without a VAT hike? Sadly, we have few choices if we are to preempt a full-blown financial and economic crisis. To reverse the debt-deficit spiral and stave off further credit downgrades, we must urgently increase the primary surplus by P80 billion to P150 billion in 2005 and achieve P250 billion by 2007. This would enable a budget balance in 2008 and set the stage for credit upgrades.

As there is little room to cut spending (86 percent being fixed), we could only raise revenues. While tax efficiency can lift collections, we can not rely on it and our creditors will not buy it. Therefore, "new taxes" are at the core of the current fiscal strategy of President Macapagal-Arroyo. But four rules guided our selection—they must (1) be substantial and recurring, (2) have organic or secular growth potential, (3) be fair and progressive and, (4) create the least economic distortions.

Except for the P16 billion from sin taxes and P3.4 billion from the 5-percent duty on petroleum, we have a long way to go to achieve P80 billion. The positive impact of lateral attrition is difficult to project and unlikely to be stable and substantial. Tax amnesty is one-off although the annual submission of a statement of assets and liabilities could help expand the recurring tax base.

Sound policy

Only three remain that are substantial while conforming to sound tax policy—(1) withdrawal of VAT exemption—P20.5 billion (P18.5 billion from petroleum) (2) VAT hike from 10 to 12 percent—P27 billion and, (3) restore corporate tax to 35 percent from 32 percent—P13.2 billion. Telecom franchise tax can raise P14 billion but is excluded for being too distortionary and discriminatory. These three (P59 billion) plus sin taxes and petroleum duty would raise P78 billion.

VAT rate hike is the biggest revenue source but is, concededly, mildly regressive. While 80 percent of consumption of the lowest 40 percent poor is VAT-free, they still pay more as a percent of their income. But, this can be cured by progressive public expenditures on health and education more efficiently targeted at the poor. In terms of global competitiveness, the proposed rate of 12 percent is not very far from the global average—lower than China's 17 percent and Latin America's 15 percent but higher than Thailand's 7 percent and Indonesia's 10 percent.

VAT will certainly hurt the poor and working class—but, a fiscal crisis will hurt them more. And it will hurt them so much more than the rich. In the financial crisis of 1997, the middle 50 percent suffered a -1.3-percent cut from its 1994 share of the national income while the poor a -1.5-percent cut. The share of the highest 10 percent rose to 2.8 percent (from 35.5 percent to 38.3 percent). *See Table 1.*

Our misgiving with the VAT hike is that it will unfairly result in the overconcentration of the fiscal pain on working families. And, this could impair the political feasibility of the entire fiscal program. Adding the Napocor tariff hike (P52 billion), petroleum duty (P3.4 billion) and sin taxes (P16 billion) to the P27-billion VAT hike would mean a huge P98.4 billion hit on the broad middle class all in one year.

Spending cuts of P20 billion also basically hurt the poor and the middle class—that tallies to a P118.4 billion added burden in 2005. On the other hand, the corporate rich takes very little direct hit. The fiscal program can only succeed with some measure of contribution from the richer sectors. And P13.2 billion from corporate tax is the smallest of the three and hardly dents a projected Ebitda base of P721 billion. [Ebitda means earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization].

A 12 percent VAT will help solve the fiscal crisis but P27 billion is very far from a final solution. Thus, there is really no issue between VAT versus corporate tax because we need more than both. It is a matter of sequence. Thus, our position is to first restore corporate income tax rate to 35 percent, being the more progressive, followed by the withdrawal of VAT exemption from pampered sectors. Only then do we raise VAT since it is the more regressive. Together with measures of self-sacrifice in the public sector (paycuts in government-owned and -controlled corporations, 40-percent pork reduction in Congress and similar curtailment of executive discretionary funds), this sequencing should help the broad middle class endure the higher VAT.

And to make it more bearable, the VAT hike could be deferred and staggered at 1 percent in 2006 and 1 percent in 2007. Increased fees and tax collection measures like Executive Order No. 399 (no audit, pay 20 percent higher) could plug the resulting gap. As fiscal conditions improve, it may be the first to be adjusted down, which Congress may delegate to the President based on deficit/gross domestic product or national government debt/primary surplus ratios.

(Salceda is the chair of the House committee on economic affairs.)

DOF lied on impact of 12% VAT

By Rep. Teodoro Casiño

The Department of Finance (DOF) may have purposely understated its figures to show that the 12-percent VAT rate will have a minimal impact on the poor. In a memorandum sent to the House ways and means committee, the DOF submitted a study intended to bolster arguments in favor of House Bill No. 3555.

Passed on third reading by the House of Representatives on the early morning of Jan. 27, the measure increased the VAT rate to 12 percent from the current 10 percent.

In the memorandum dated Jan. 18, the DOF insisted that the VAT rate hike would not "hit the poor the hardest," was not "anti-poor," and was "in fact" a "poverty amelioration measure."

Among the DOF's findings was that if the expenditures of poor Filipino families were subjected to the 12 percent VAT, their burden of the VAT increase will only be equivalent to P65.22 per month, at most.

Our critique of the DOF study:

1. The DOF study uses conservative assumptions. It defines the "poor" only as those families earning below P60,000 annually:

- This "poverty threshold" assumes a conservatively low monthly income of below P5,000. This is equivalent to a daily income of P167 and a daily per capita of only P33 (assuming five family members).
- It should be noted that prevailing minimum wage rates in the country range from P150 in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to P300 in Metro Manila. This translates to gross monthly incomes of between P3,375 to P6,750 (assuming 22.5 standard working days a month) or gross annual incomes of between P40,500 and P81,000.
- Considering that current minimum wage rates fall way below estimates of decent cost of living, it is but logical that all families earning within the range of prevailing minimum wage rates be also included in the poverty threshold.
- The study only covers the 4,956,394 families falling under the first five lowest income brackets in the National Economic and Development Authority's (Neda) Family Spending Profile, or those earning below P60,000 annually.
- But the study does not consider "poor" the 3,479,499 families falling under bracket 6 (annual income: P60,000-P79,999) and bracket 7 (annual income: P80,000-P99,999).
- Thus, the DOF study generally and conveniently excludes other low-income families subsisting on minimum wage-level income. The government's objective, after all, is to downplay the impact of the VAT rate hike on ordinary consumers. *See Table 2.*

Erroneous

2. In concluding that each poor family will shoulder an additional expense of "only" P65.22 per month, the DOF erroneously based its computations on the P35.12-billion estimated revenues from the VAT hike, which is based on a collection efficiency rate of 70 percent.

- It is erroneous to base computations of that VAT burden on the amount of tax the government is supposed to collect, with all its inefficiencies, rather than the actual amount of additional VAT that consumers are bound to absorb.
- Thus, a more accurate estimate of the tax burden should be based on the full incremental impact of the VAT rate hike which is P50.17 billion. This represents the full amount of the 2-percent additional VAT that will be levied on all VAT-able products to be actually absorbed by the consumers.

3. We can get a more accurate gauge of the impact of the 12 percent VAT if the DOF's figures are expanded to cover families earning minimum wage levels, while the basis of the VAT burden is corrected from P35.12 billion to P50.17 billion.

- Recall that the highest minimum wage rate is currently P300 for Metro Manila. This translates to a gross monthly income of P6,750 (assuming 22.5 standard working days a month), or a gross annual income of P81,000. Families subsisting on the P300 minimum wage therefore fall under income class bracket 7 (annual income:P80,000-P99,999) on the Family Spending Profile.
- Even taking just the high end of bracket 7, a family earning P99,999 annually subsists on just P273 daily. This is still way below decent cost of living estimates at P492.19 in the Philippines and P602.31 in Metro Manila (Ibon cost of living estimates as of December 2004).
- For the purpose of this critique, Bayan Muna uses bracket 7 as its revised poverty threshold, which is nearer to reality compared with bracket 5, which being used by Neda and DOF.

A comparison of the DOF study with Bayan Muna's revised estimates reveals the following differences:

- The DOF study covers 4.9 million "poor" families, which will collectively shoulder additional expenses of P3.88 billion from the 12 percent VAT. Bayan Muna's recomputed study covers 8.4 million poor families, which will collectively shoulder P12.54 billion.
- Computed on a monthly basis, the DOF says each "poor" family will shoulder an additional expense of P65.22 per month. But Bayan Muna pegs the amount higher at P123.90, or almost twice the DOF figure. The gap is P58.68 or 47 percent. *See Table 3.*
- Any additional tax burden on the poorest 30 percent of Filipino families will already be criminal. As it is, families belonging to these income classes are already in debt since they have been forced to spend more than their income, resulting in "dissavings," as shown in the latest Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES).
- Considering that low-income families have less and less disposable income, additional expenses as a result of the increase in the VAT rate will push them deeper in debt.

(Casiño is a representative of the party-list group Bayan Muna.)

Table 1: Income Distribution (in percent)

Decile group	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003
First	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8
Second	3.2	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.9
Third	4.1	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.7
Fourth	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.6
Fifth	6.0	5.7	6.0	5.4	5.5	5.7
Sixth	7.3	7.0	7.4	6.8	6.9	7.1
Seventh	9.0	8.8	9.1	8.7	8.8	9.0
Eighth	11.0	11.4	11.8	11.5	11.7	11.8
Ninth	16.0	16.1	16.4	16.3	16.3	16.5
Tenth	35.8	37.8	35.5	38.3	38.3	36.8

SOURCE: FAMILY INCOME AND EXPEDITURES SURVEY BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE

Table 2: Family spending profile used in DOF study

	Income Class Bracket (Annual income in pesos)	Number of families	Total family expenditures (In billion pesos)
1	Under 20,000	364,569	6.2
2	20,000-29,999	836,651	22.7
3	30,000-39,999	1,170,541	42.8
4	40,000-49,999	1,388,507	63.2
5	50,000-59,999	1,196,126	64.1
6	60,000-79,999	1,983,219	130.0
7	80,000-99,999	1,496,280	122.2
8	100,000-249,999	4,813,253	639.1
9	250,000 and above	2,020,509	711.5
	Total	15,269,655	1,801.8

Remarks:

1. The study conservatively refers to the "poor" as only those belonging to income class brackets 1-5. This covers families earning below P60,000 annually (equivalent to an income of below P5,000 per month or below P167 per day).

2. These income classes are composed of 4,956,394 families (32 percent of total families) accounting for P199 billion in expenditures (11 percent of the total family expenditures).

Note that the study does not cover bracket 6 (estimated monthly income of P5,000-P6,666) and bracket 7 (estimated monthly income of P6,667-P8,333).

SOURCE OF BASIC DATA: DOF MEMORANDUM DATED JAN. 18 TO HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Table 3: Average annual family income, expenditures and savings (2003 at current prices)

Decile	Income	Expenditure	Savings
First	P 26,424	P28,699	(P2,275)
Second	42,440	43,730	(1,290)
Third	55,113	55,153	(39)
Fourth	68,845	66,286	2,560
Fifth	85,222	80,169	5,053
Sixth	105,886	98,866	7.020
Seventh	134,103	120,731	13,371
Eighth	175,844	153,435	22,409
Ninth	246,192	206,228	39,964
Tenth	547,504	399,468	148,036

SOURCE: FIES 2000-2003

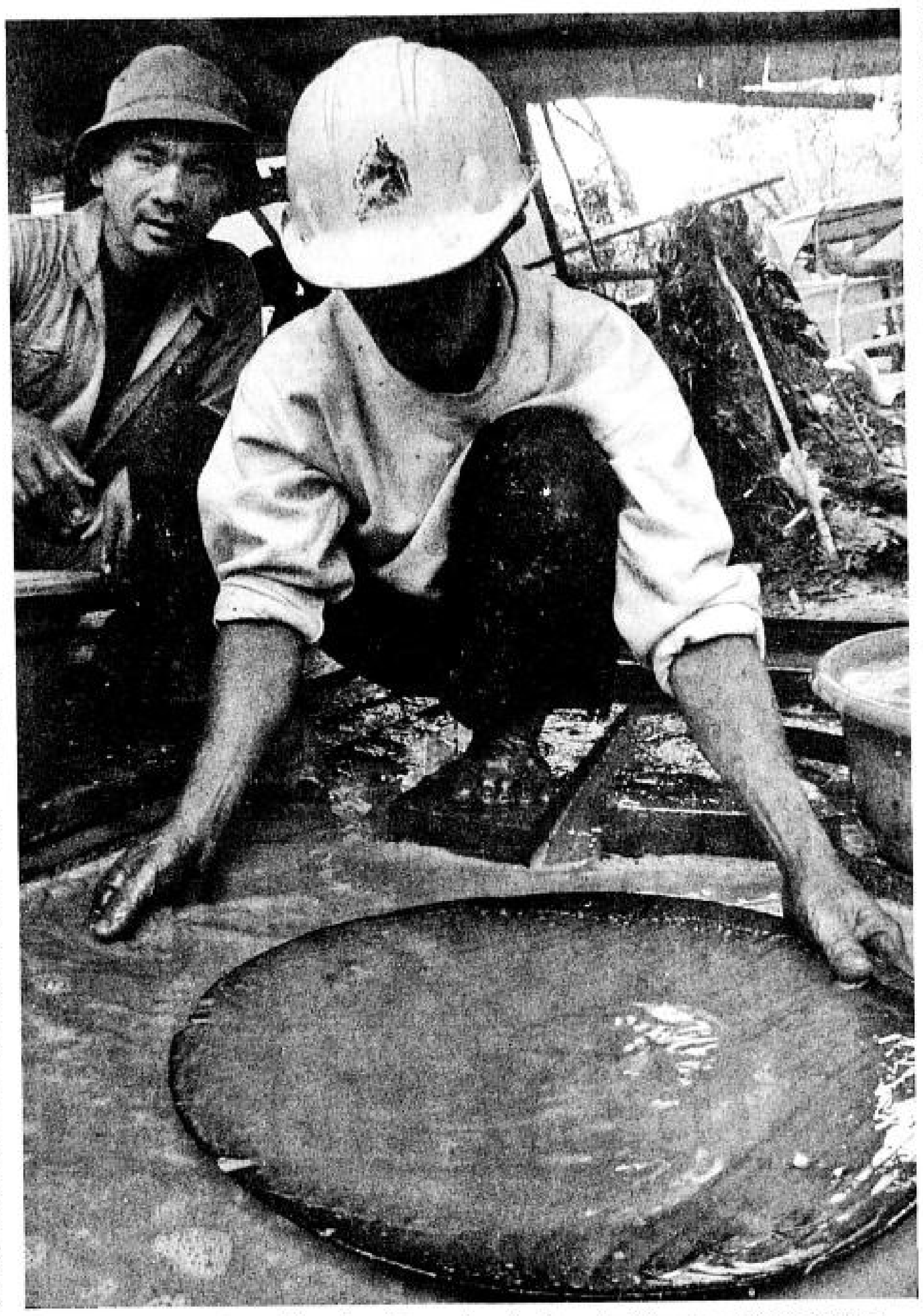
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Mt. De Oro not for small scale mining

By Germelina Lacorte
Davao City



THE SEARCH for elusive gold continues for small-scale miners like this man on Monte de Oro, which engineers said is not a profitable mining area for guesswork and luck seekers. PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM

WHILE losses sent small-scale miners packing up and leaving the hyped up Monte de Oro gold mining area, two foreign firms are inching their way closer to taking over the North Davao Mining Corp., one of the big mining companies which has a contested claim on the Monte de Oro mines.

Crau Minerals Inc., a partner of Kinioc mining engaged in chromite mining in Omasdang, Loreto, Surigao del Sur, and the Australian Phelps Dodge Exploration Corp. are planning to stake claims on North Davao, a government firm that would be sold this year, according to engineer Edilberto Arreza, mining operations officer at the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences division in Davao City.

Arreza said that as early as late last year, Crau Minerals has already been studying the North Davao Mining Corp. to determine the financial health of the company.

Monte de Oro in New Barile of Maco town still sits within a smaller portion of Compostela Valley's Masara gold district, considered by geologists as one of the country's five major gold districts. The other four include Paracle in Camarines Norte, Baguio in Benguet province, Masbate in Masbate and Surigao in Surigao del Sur.

Contest

North Davao has been a holder of a Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) in the Masara gold district area.

But the publication of its FTAA in 1996 was contested by the Apex Mining Corp., a holder of a mining permit for the same area.

Arreza said the government plans to sell off North Davao this year. Only the contesting claim by the Apex Corp. has been preventing Crau Minerals from buying out the company, he said.

Crau Minerals was considering buying out the portion being contested by Apex Mining Corp. to resolve the issue and finally take hold of North Davao's claim, he said.

Arreza said if government failed to sell off North Davao this year, it will soon be handled by the Natural Resource Mining Corp., a government-owned corporation, which is now taking over the mining operations in the gold rush town of Diwalwal.

Earlier, frustrated mining prospectors in Monte de Oro started packing up after the hyped up gold area failed to yield the amount of gold they expected. Mining engineers said the area is not very viable for small mining operations.

Small yield

Engineer Lorel Castillo, of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said the gold yield in Monte de Oro area only reached an average of 1.3 and 1.8 grams per ton of ore, which is too low to make up for the P30,000 spent by each gold prospector for one tunnel alone.

"It simply is not worth it," he said. "The small amount of gold they're getting could not compensate for the amount they spend. The whole idea is not viable," Castillo said.

Small mining prospectors wasted over an estimated P15 million digging tunnels that yielded only measly pieces of gold, not worth the amount they were spending, he said.

A SIGN warning of the dangers of gold mining, one that is unheeded as treasure hunters continue to flock to Monte de Oro.

Frustrated, the prospectors and the miners left. Only half of the estimated 3,000 people in the area remained, according to the report made by the MGB late last year.

Castillo said it needs economy of scale to make the operations in Monte de Oro viable. For small-scale miners to go into gold prospects is really a very big gamble, he said.

Each mining firm spends at least $50 million for gold exploration alone, an amount which no Filipino firm can afford.

Gold rush

More than 3,000 people had rushed to the area sometime in June when news about the gold broke out, later prompting the DENR to issue an order to stop people from coming to prevent landslides and possible loss of lives.

Some tunnels in the area were then in danger of collapsing.

The influx of people had brought in local capital to the area, fueling spending and allowing small stores and livelihood to thrive.

"For a time, people were earning money," Castillo told INQUIRER Mindanao, "but the money did not come from gold."

"In gold rush towns, you can really see huge amounts of gold being wheeled around any time of the day," he continued. "There was no such thing in Monte de Oro. Only rarely did a small amount of gold appear."

Although what happened to Monte de Oro miners can teach some people a lesson, there is a big tendency for the Monte de Oro

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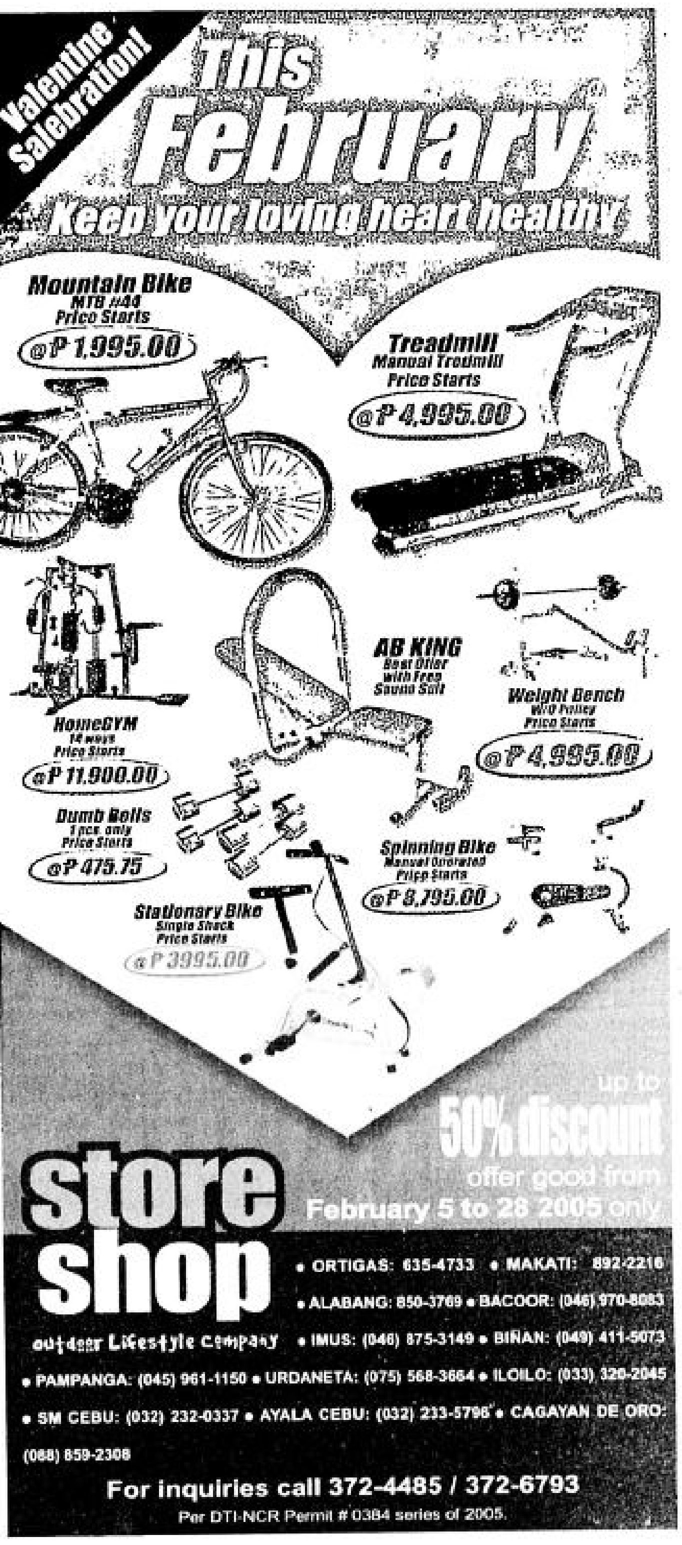

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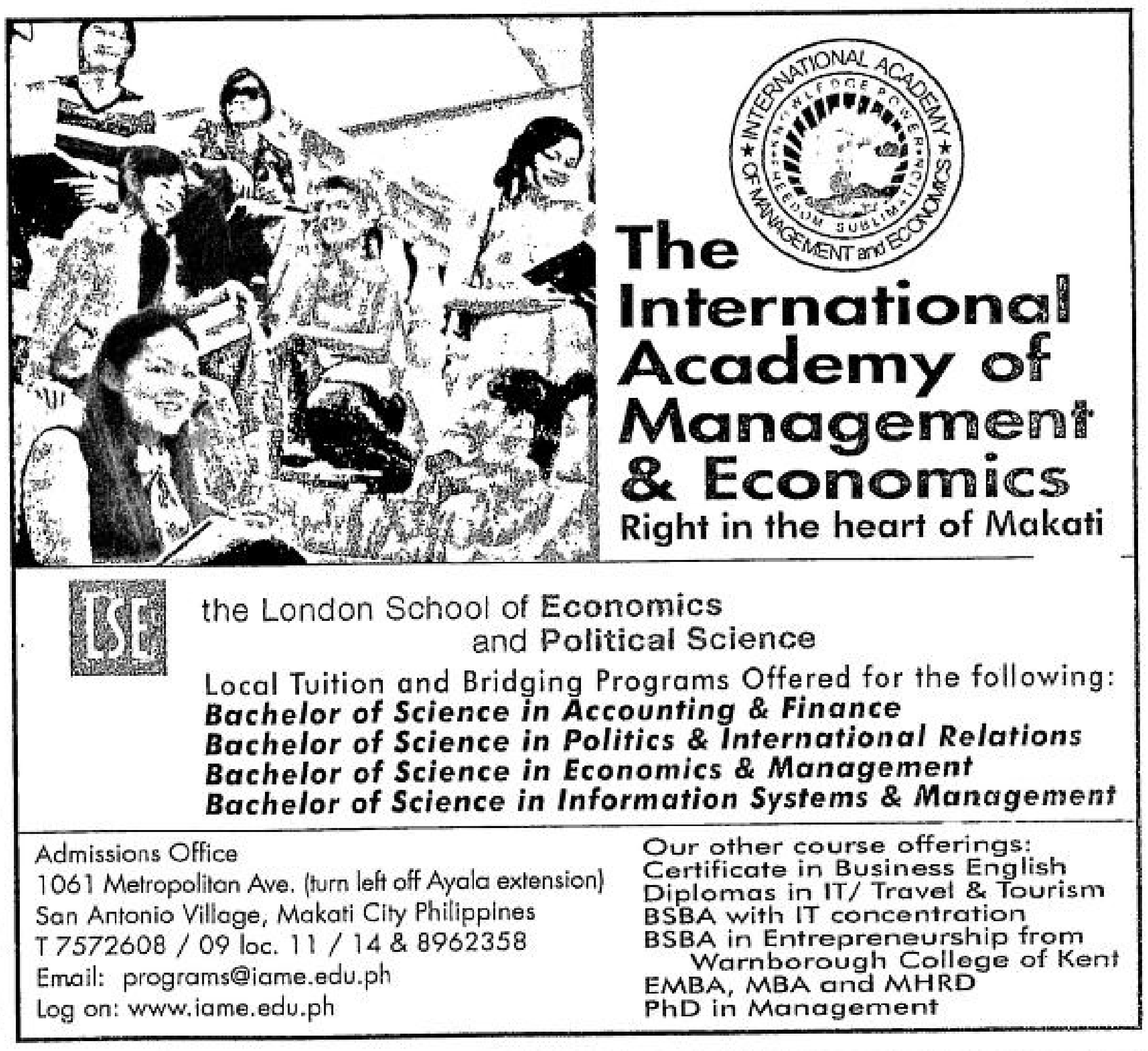

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2. Application for prospective faculty members in all subject areas for school year 2005-2006 is now OPEN. For application procedures and details, please call the UST High School Office at (02) 731-47-85.
3. The Grand Alumni Homecoming of the University of Santo Tomas High School is on FEBRUARY 26, 2005 at the Manila Hotel. For tickets and particulars, please contact Mr. Michael Angelo E. Malicsi at (02) 731-47-85 or (02) 731-31-01 loc. 8453

Happy Birthday, Your Eminence!

Celebrating another milestone in a remarkable life.

he 48th International Eucharistic Congress held last October 10-17, 2004 at Gundalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, was a major event in the Roman Catholic Church. Held every four years, it gathers Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, and other members of the clergy from all over the world to discuss insights on the impact and relevance of the Eucharist on our daily life.

The Philippine delegation was headed by His Eminence Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal D.D., Archbishop of Cebu. It included other prominent CBCP officials such as Archbishop Carmelo D.F. Morelos D.D. of Zamboanga, Archbishop Diosdado A. Talamayan D.D. of Tuguegarao, other Bishops, and young priests from various Dioceses in the country. To highlight the strong participation of the Philippines in the quadrennial event, Cardinal Vidal and Archbishops Morelos and Talamayan gave impressive catechetical talks that exhibited the depth and breadth of their Eucharistic knowledge.

His Eminence Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal emphasizes a point during an interview with a member of the Foreign Press.

Archbishop Morelos's discourse covered the Situation of Faith in the Eucharist in Asia. He revealed that while the region's Catholics account for only 2.8% of the total global population, the Asian Church, in her poverty, comes closest to understanding the relationship of Faith and Suffering comparable to Jesus Christ's own experience.

Archbishop Talamayan, on the other hand, elucidated on the state of Eucharistic fervor in the Philippines. He spoke of how well Filipinos celebrate the Sacrament in small barrios located in far-flung provinces, regardless of their economic conditions.

But easily, one of the most moving talks at the Congress was given by His Eminence Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal on the Centrality of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church.

The speech, delivered entirely in Spanish, focused on how the Eucharist unites the people with the Paschal Mystery of Christ, its role in building up the Church Communion, and how it unites everyone in fellowship.

His Eminence Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal (standing, 5th from left) poses with a group of Filipino delegates during a dinner hosted at the Philippine Embassy by Ambassador Justo Orros, Jr. (standing, 3rd from left) in celebration of Archbishop Talamayan's (standing, 4th from left) birthday.

His mastery of such a core doctrine of the Catholic faith was so well-received, the audience broke into a standing ovation at the close of the speech. A Press Conference was conducted afterwards where Cardinal Vidal answered questions from the impressed members of the media, together with His Eminence Jozef Cardinal Tomko, Archbishop Oscar Rodriguez Madariaga D.D., Rev. Fr. Ferdinand Pratzner S.S., and other high-ranking international members of the clergy.

In his speech Cardinal Vidal discussed how each mass that celebrates the Eucharist is celebrated on the altar of the world…"where east meets west to proclaim the greatness of the Lord. It is where the great multitudes come to participate in the supper of the Lamb. It is the Church itself, where all men and women partake of the Lord's banquet."

Cardinal Vidal affirmed, "every time the Eucharist is celebrated, it bring us closer to the Paschal Mystery of Christ." Whether in remote provinces or at the Vatican, the Eucharist "transports us in time and space, bringing us to the very act of Jesus's revelation of the Father's love." He quotes: "Baptism unites us with the Trinity, but in the Eucharist, we are brought into an intimate union with the Lord (CCC, 1391)." It is through the Eucharistic Mystery that we participate in the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

The Cardinal also discussed the Eucharist's role in building the Church Communion. He states, "the bonds of communion must begin in the family, but it cannot stop there. The family must reach out to the neighborhood." And in instances where people are gathered to pray, they feel the presence of Christ because of their strong Faith and their celebration of the Eucharist.

One of Mexico's beautiful churches provide a backdrop as the Philippine Delegation pose for a souvenir photo.

Finally, Cardinal Vidal spoke of the Eucharist's ability to unite us in fellowship. He emphasized that while it may be easier for others to have Faith, it is another to be able to show it in deed. He reminded us that Jesus Christ's words and acts found their real meaning in the Eucharist. Cardinal Vidal reiterates: "Only by presence (in the Church), communion, and service can the Eucharist be the Mystery of Communion and Life of the Church."

Indeed, the impact of Cardinal Vidal's speech at the 48th International Eucharistic Congress marks another milestone in the life of this remarkable servant of God. He truly made every Filipino proud in Mexico. And for that he deserves our deepest respect and admiration, especially on this his special day.

Happy Birthday, Your Eminencel

XLVIII

Mt. De Oro . . .

From page A17

story to keep repeating itself in the future, engineer Bong Lim, chief of the MGB permits division, said.

Gold panning

Around Monte de Oro, Lim pointed out, are other gold panning towns of Nabunturan and Pantukan, where small miners operate. He said that in the Pantukan area alone, small miners run gold panning operations in 13 barangays.

"Local investors would always grab any chance to lay their hands on the gold," he said, "Although, we've been warning them of the great risks they face."

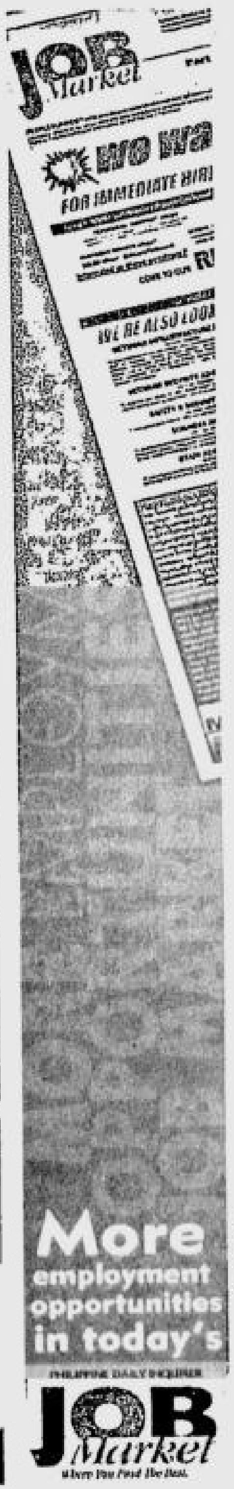
"There's a big possibility that after they invest, all of a sudden, *wala na*," he said.

But Castillo said the mining firms need tremendous amounts of capital to make their operations viable.

While big firms conduct aero-magnetic surveys and rock sampling studies, small-scale firms mostly rely on guesswork and luck. "Which is really dangerous, and usually end up with tremendous loss of money," he said.

But from the number of tunnels dug in Monte de Oro, one can glean the huge amount of money that was spent in the place, he said.

He said the recent reversal of the Supreme Court ruling in favor of the entry of foreign mining firms will eventually usher in a tie-up with big mining firms.



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MADE IN CEBU

TONEE DESPOJO/CDN

The FBM-Aboitiz launched the biggest ever catamaran it built in Cebu City. The 60-meter catamaran can carry 60 cars and 1,200 passengers and its launching in Balamban, Cebu was witnessed by representatives of its buyers, the Doeksen Transport Group based in Rotterdam.

Divert taxes to terraces, solon urges

BAGUIO CITY—A Cordillera lawmaker wants to divert 25 percent of the country's travel taxes to Ifugao to fund the rehabilitation and restoration of the province's rice terraces.

House Bill 2771 allocates a fourth of these taxes to promote the tourism destinations of the country's 20 poorest provinces, including Ifugao, but restoring the terraces must be a key priority, said Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, the bill's proponent.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) inscribed the terraces as a World Heritage Site but the agency later included the centuries-old relics among the world's most endangered monuments.

Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao on Thursday said the government's budget deficit should not distract the province from restoring the terraces.

Built by ancient Ifugaos using engineering technology that was far advanced for the time, the terraces have since eroded due to neglect and insufficient maintenance, Chungalao said.

Rebuilding the terraces using the ancient technology will require the government up to P100 million, but the deficit has forced President Macapagal-Arroyo to instead abolish the agencies responsible for restoring the relics, he said.

The Ifugao provincial government has since assumed the management of the terraces, but it remains one of the poorly financed local governments, with only a P25-million internal revenue allotment share, Chungalao said.

Malacañang has been wooing other countries to help invest in Ifugao, the fourth poorest province.

But HB 2771 may not be feasible, according to a Philippine Tourism Authority official.

Carlos Honorio Estepa, PTA board director, said PTA already shares the travel tax revenues with four other agencies. "PTA only gets 27 percent of the taxes. [The Commission on Higher Education] gets 40 percent, the Bureau of Treasury gets 20 percent, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts gets 10 percent, and the National Parks Development Committee gets 3 percent," he said.

The government earned P651 million from travel taxes in 2004, Estepa said.

"If he wants 25 percent, where will he take it from? PTA is already swamped with administrative as well as local development projects. PTA financed the local sewage and water treatment project for Boracay [island] because the local government there had no resources," he said.

Estepa said Ms Arroyo already ordered PTA to develop "anchor destinations" in Manila, Tagaytay, the Cordillera, Cebu, Bohol, Siargao, Camiguin Island and the Ilocos region.

But Domogan said the measure counters the government's decision to focus on "urban tourism destinations." "We need to start developing the tourism potentials of the [provinces] because cities can no longer handle this much tourism [traffic]," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

MILF asks Palace to lobby KL for date of talks

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is asking Malacañang to help convince Kuala Lumpur to set the date for the resumption of formal peace negotiations between the rebel group and the Philippine government.

Earlier, both sides said they were hopeful that the peace negotiations could resume this month after it was stalled for several times in the past.

But as of yesterday, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said there was no clear indication as to when the peace process could restart.

The peace process was suspended in 2000 after then President Joseph Estrada ordered an all-out attack against the rebel group.

In 2001, shortly after Estrada's ouster, President Macapagal-Arroyo started back-channel talks to bring back the rebel group to the negotiating table.

Also in the same year, the rebel group and the government signed a truce that led to the forming of an International Monitoring Team (IMT).

"We have been waiting since last week but we are also in limbo when the talks would take place. We are eager to start," he said.

MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said the MILF and the government are still in the process of consolidating their positions on the issue of the ancestral domain but said this is not a hindrance to the resumption of the negotiations.

"The issue on ancestral domain claims serves as the finishing touch of the draft proposal the MILF will present during the KL talks," Iqbal said.

Reacting to Malacañang's pronouncement that a peace deal would be signed before the year ends, Kabalu said the MILF would only accept an agreement that would solve the centuries-old Moro problem in Mindanao.

Communications Secretary Silvestre Afable earlier said the government is optimistic that a peace agreement with the MILF would be signed within the year.

As this developed, members of the IMT continue to arrive in Mindanao.

Libya, one of the most influential members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, has sent in another official to join its IMT contingent.

Lt. Col. Nurdin Al Mabruk of the Libyan Navy has joined three other Libyan peace monitors in General Santos City, who arrived in Mindanao earlier. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Hong Kong court convicts trader linked to Mandaue shabu factory

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A court in Hong Kong has convicted the alleged financier of a shabu laboratory in Mandaue City.

But the sentence to be imposed on Filipino-Chinese Calvin de Jesus Tan would be known on Feb. 17, according to Consul General Corazon Belmonte-Jover in her report to the House committee on dangerous drugs.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, committee vice chair, said Tan's conviction would strengthen the extradition case filed by the Philippine government against Tan.

The extradition hearing will resume on March 9, when Cuenco and other Philippine officials will go back to Hong Kong.

"Yes, it can strengthen our extradition case against Tan because it shows what kind of a person he is," Cuenco said in an interview over Cebu City-based radio station dyLA.

The Philippine government is seeking the extradition of Tan to face charges of manufacturing illegal drugs after he was identified as the financier of the three shabu laboratories that were raided by antinarcotics agents in Mandaue City in September last year.

Tan was arrested in the former British colony in October last year after customs officers found him possessing a small quantity of shabu and cocaine at a ferry terminal while he was bound for Macao.

Last Jan. 28, the Kwun Tong Magistracy in Hong Kong found Tan guilty of possession of drugs after it ruled that the prosecution witnesses were credible and honest.

The defense asked the court to detain Tan in an institution for drug dependents considering that Tan had a "clear record" and the volume of illegal drugs found in his possession was small.

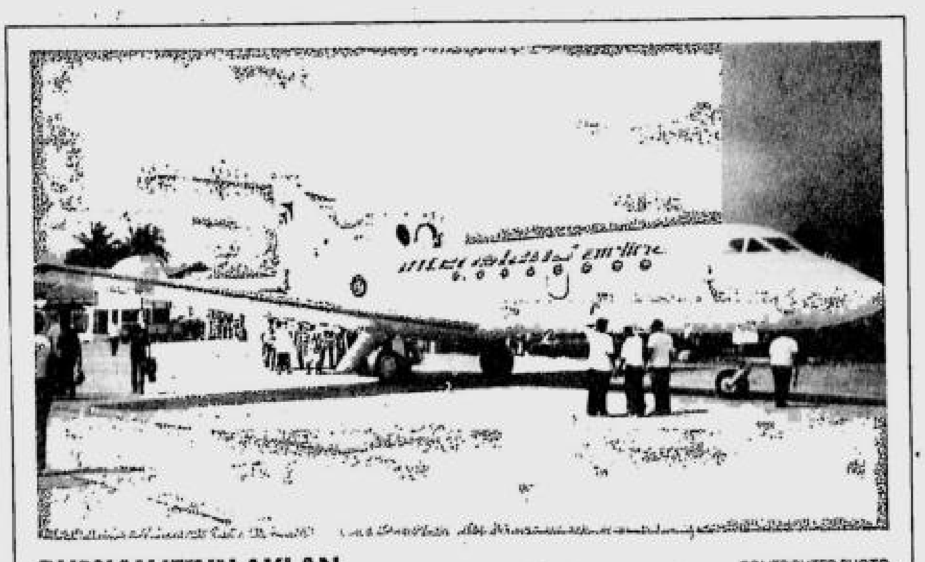
The court magistrate ordered Tan be remanded to the custody of the Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre, pending the recommendation of the Drug Addiction Treatment Center.

"Pending receipt of report from the Drug Addiction Treatment Center recommending commitment of Mr. Tan in such institution, the court adjourned for Feb. 17, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at Court No. 5 of the Kwun Tong Magistracy for sentencing," Jover said in her report.

Tan signed a report admitting that the drugs seized from him were for his personal consumption.

But Tan claimed he did not fully understand what he signed.

"Tan denied having understood some complicated Chinese characters and he claimed he only understood simple Chinese characters...," Jover said in the report.



RUSSIAN JET IN AKLAN

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Interisland Airlines launched its first flight to Caticlan on Jan. 13 using a Russian-made YAK-40 jet, which could take off and land on short runways. Officials of the company said regular flights started Feb. 1.

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LUZON
Tragedy to Hope

MODEL of the homes in pastel colors to be built for the victims of the recent storms that ravaged three provinces in Luzon is displayed at the launch of the Gawad Kalinga Luzon project graced by President Arroyo. Behind are Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Philippine National Red Cross and Manuel V. Pangilinan, chair of PLDT and Smart Communications Inc., which hosted the event at the NBC Tent at The Fort. At right is Tony Meloto, executive director, Gawad Kalinga Foundation.

Gawad to build 40,000 homes for storm victims

From page A1

In Metro Manila, for example, it was behind the elimination of eyesore barong-barongs in the former dump site colonies of Payatas, Quezon City, and in the dingy Baseco compound in Manila.

Meloto said that Gawad and its partners had accomplished all these quietly and without fanfare. "But now the news is too good to be kept secret," he said. "I really feel that we're taking off; Filipinos are looking for something like this. They ache for something like this. Its time has come."

Meloto stressed that the project was not just all about physical improvements and relocation, since volunteers also initiate education, livelihood and health programs in the target community.

"If you change the slum environment, you change the slum behavior," he said, noting that communities touched by Gawad eventually achieved a "zero-crime" rate. Residents became more neighborly, menfolk gave up drinking and other vices, and the children studied more.

No profit agenda

Gawad initially relied solely on donations, in cash or land, from CFC members here and abroad when it started its housing projects—some 10 houses in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City.

"We have members donating their entire 13th-month pay," and there was little and no corporate sponsorships at all, Meloto recalled.

Then companies started to "hear about us" in the past couple of years and began offering Gawad a share in their "CSR" budgets (corporate social responsibility), he said.

Endorsements from Ms Arroyo, former President Corazon Aquino, and the support of the Ateneo de Manila, enhanced the group's credibility.

Today, Meloto said, Gawad has made partners of some 60 major corporations. Among those highly visible during the launching program were communications giant PLDT and Smart (which hosted the event) and the ABS-CBN network.

"To businessmen, peace and order are important—and they've seen this in the (first few) communities we've served. They all want industrial peace, and they know that most of their low-ranking employees are themselves squatters," he said, when asked how Gawad had earned the trust of the donor community.

"They also want to make sure where their money goes," he added. "And maybe because we have no political agenda, we have no profit agenda. All that we're fighting for is the future of our children."

On top of philanthropic considerations, Meloto, an economics graduate of Ateneo de Manila and a former corporate executive, said it actually "makes sense" for the private sector—especially big landowners—to share its wealth with the community.

Double properties' worth

"If you own 10 hectares in a 5th- or 6th-class municipality in the province, your property isn't really worth that much. But if you donate three hectares—we can build 100 houses there and bring other improvements worth P5 million—you can double the worth of your remaining seven hectares," Meloto said.

"So if you have idle lands out there which are not really fetching a good price, why don't you donate them to our informal settlers, so they will not squat in Manila," he said.

Meloto said Kalinga Luzon would need at least P2 billion in funds and 1,200 hectares of land for its target of 40,000 new homes for the disaster-stricken families.

The P2 billion would be set aside mainly for construction materials at P50,000 per house.

Also under the Kalinga scheme, residents of the community should provide "labor equity" equivalent to P50,000, meaning, all that is required of them is their muscle power and eagerness to see their neighborhood rise from the ruins.

(Gawad Kalinga can be reached at 727-9612, 726-7261 and 726-0549 or log on to its website at www.gawadkalinga.org)

Carmen Soriano . . .

From page A1

THE SULTRY singer Carmen Soriano with the whistle-bait figure was the toast of Manila by night in the '60s. This photo was taken in 1996. PDI PHOTO

her son from a past relationship.

"I don't know that devil. I have only one son, and his name is Lloyd Samartino," the retired chanteuse told the INQUIRER.

Carmen said word about Soriano's claim first reached her soon after her only child married Jo Ramos, one of the daughters of President Fidel Ramos.

"I ignored it because it was not true," she said, adding that she did not bother to mention it to the then First Couple, Fidel and Amelita Ramos, her former neighbors in Magallanes Village, Makati, because "there was nothing to it."

"But this is too much. He is cruel, he is inhuman," Carmen said.

Disturbing retirement

She said she was planning to sue "this very notorious man" for besmirching her name and disturbing her retirement.

"I've been away from the limelight for so many years, and here's somebody coming out of the woodwork claiming to be my son? How dare he say those things," she said.

In a profile on Martin Soriano in this paper's Saturday edition, an NBI old-timer said the notorious ex-agent had claimed closeness to President Ramos by virtue of his being a half-brother of Samartino.

According to the INQUIRER source, a senior agent of the bureau, Soriano had impressed upon the other agents that he had "strong connections," the Ramoses among them.

But another Ramos son-in-law, Freddie Jalasco, denied Soriano's claim of affinity.

Typical modus operandi

Soriano was dismissed from the NBI in 1999 for involvement in illegal activities. He was arrested by police in Quezon City on Jan. 31 while collecting P200,000 in additional ransom from businesswoman Carolyn Guillen, whom he and his group had earlier "arrested" and held for ransom in a hotel room for alleged possession of illegal drugs.

The INQUIRER source said Guillen's case was typical of Soriano's modus operandi of "planting evidence and asking the victim to cough up money."

Cover for extortion

Yesterday, an NBI supervising agent phoned the INQUIRER to confirm Soriano's illegal activities while at the bureau.

The agent, a lawyer who asked not to be named, said he was able in 1998 to monitor three "arrests" made by Soriano that turned out to be "a cover for extortion."

"I reported this to our chief, but instead of investigating Martin, he reassigned me to the North," the agent said.

One of the cases supposedly involved a resident of Forbes Park whose house was "searched" by Soriano and his group, allegedly for illegal drugs.

"Actually, they ransacked the house and took away valuables, including paintings," the agent said.

He said the NBI director at the time was Santiago Toledo.

Toledo died in 1999, and was replaced by Federico Opinion, who dismissed Soriano that same year.

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If symptoms persist, consult your doctor

Marcos torture victim says US verdict demeaning

By Ryan D. Rosauro,
PDI Mindanao Bureau
Desiree Caluza,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Cynthia D. Balana *in Manila*

ONE TORTURE victim, now a woman nearing her 50s, said the verdict demeaned what she had fought for.

Others, including two who have become members of Congress, downplayed its impact and said it only meant the battleground had shifted.

"That decision demeans our struggle for justice," said Ludie Gallardo-Montemor, referring to the ruling by a US appeals court that victims of human rights abuses during the rule of Ferdinand Marcos can't get the $683 million in Marcos assets now under Philippine government control.

"Compensation is symbol of our triumphs and victory over the evils of the dictatorship. It helps give the feeling of justice." Montemor, a former Kabataang Makabayan activist in Mindanao who was jailed by the Philippine Constabulary from 1975 to 1977, told the INQUIRER.

"If the government really has a sense of justice, it must enact a legislation to compensate the human rights victims. The legislation speaks of government's recognition that our struggle is justified."

Montemor was arrested in Gingoog City and put under solitary confinement for more than one month. She said she was "sexually harassed" and physically and psychologically tortured.

Another former political detainee had a different view.

"The problem with this case is the decision has always depended on a foreign power, and not on the sovereign will of the Filipino people, who booted the Marcoses out of power," Manuel Loste said.

Loste is a member of a group of former political detainees in the Cordillera. He is now national vice chair of the militant group Bayan Muna.

Two members of the House of Representatives, also victims of human rights abuses under Marcos, said they were not surprised by the US court decision.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, chair of the House committee on human rights, and Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said they did not consider the decision a fatal blow to the claims of some 9,500 victim of atrocities.

"I'm not surprised at all. It's merely reiterating that the US courts must respect the decision of Philippine courts, and preventing a foreign government from interfering in the internal affairs of the country," Rosales said.

What was important, Rosales said, was the government's recognition of the victims' claims and the commitment to give a portion of the amount to them as compensation.

Ocampo said his group did not consider the US appeals court's ruling a defeat.

"We welcome the decision. It's still okay with us. It only means that what we're doing in Congress—processing a compensation package—is correct," Ocampo said.

House Bill 5335 seeks to give compensation to the human rights victims and is now on second reading. It is authored by Rosales and Ocampo.

Rights victims lose US case

From page A1

co court recognized this," former PCGG chief Jovito Salonga said.

Salonga said the victims still had options left.

Since the abuses occurred in the Philippines, they should seek justice in their own country by going after the Marcos heirs, he said.

"They have to sue the Marcoses," Salonga said in an interview. "They can file human rights cases or their claims can be recognized in the inheritance proceedings of the Marcos children."

"The only other avenue is for the Philippine government, out of the goodness of its heart, to give the victims a part of the $683 million," he added.

A sovereign country

The three-judge panel of the San Francisco-based 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that American courts have no legal right to overturn a foreign country's Supreme Court—despite the plaintiffs' 1995 jury award in Honolulu.

The San Francisco court was referring to a ruling by the Philippine Supreme Court in 2003 forfeiting the disputed money in favor of the Philippine government.

The plaintiffs filed a class-action lawsuit against the Marcos estate in 1986, the year he was deposed as president after ruling for 20 years. Marcos and his family fled to Hawaii, where he died in exile in 1989.

In 1995, using a 2-century-old US law, a Honolulu jury awarded plaintiffs $2 billion after finding Marcos responsible for summary executions, disappearances and torture.

Part of state treasury

The plaintiffs have not collected from that judgment, which is nearing $4 billion with interest, and have been awarded a combined $40 million from Marcos assets found in a New York bank. That award is on appeal.

The $683 million represented the largest amount available to the plaintiffs.

Swift and others argued that the $683 million transferred from the Swiss account to the Philippine National Bank should have been awarded to their clients.

The Philippine government said the money was part of the national treasury, a decision the country's highest court agreed with in 2003 when it ordered the PNB to forward the money to the government.

PNB hails verdict

The appeals court has jurisdiction for Hawaii and eight other western states.

Jay Ziegler, an attorney for the PNB, said the institution was gratified by the decision.

"We think it is the correct result in this case," Ziegler said. "The Philippine Supreme Court in 2003 ordered the funds forfeited to the government, and the bank complied with the Supreme Court."

The plaintiffs also are pursuing other avenues to collect money.

They are trying to seize $22 million in Marcos assets in a bank in Singapore, but the Philippine government claims ownership to that money too, said John Vandyke, a professor of international law at the University of Hawaii.

GMA allots share

He said the plaintiffs also were trying to litigate their case against the Marcos estate in Philippine courts but haven't gotten past a court order requiring the posting of a $7 million bond to have the case heard.

Filipinos are themselves squabbling over the fabled Marcos fortune.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the setting aside of $145 million out of the $683 million for the victims but this would need a law from Congress.

The proposed law has been stuck in a virtual quagmire in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Under the present law, all proceeds from the recovery of Marcos' assets are to be used to fund the agrarian reform program. *With a report from Dona Pazibugan and AP*

MARCOS MILLIONS CHRONOLOGY

March 1986—The Federal Council of Switzerland stuns the international community by freezing the secret accounts of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos and his associates in Swiss banks. This is unprecedented in the history of Swiss banking, which has always protected the identities of bank depositors.

April 1986—The Presidential Commission on Good Government formally files a request for mutual assistance with the Swiss Federal Police to freeze the Marcos deposits in Switzerland.

December 1990—The Swiss Federal Supreme Court rules that the $356 million Marcos-linked assets (now $683 million, with interest) belongs in principle to the Republic of the Philippines provided certain conditionalities are met.

1991—About 10,000 human rights victims file a class suit against Marcos.

December 1991—The PCGG files a civil case before the Sandiganbayan for the forfeiture of the said Swiss Marcos accounts as ill-gotten wealth.

Marcos estate liable

1993—The US Federal Jury in Honolulu finds the Marcos estate liable for torture, summary killings and disappearance of about 10,000 people. The court awards the victims $1.2 billion (now nearly $4 billion with interest) in damages.

December 1993—The PCGG enters into a compromise agreement with the Marcos heirs for the global settlement of the assets of the Marcos family based on 75-25 sharing in favor of the government. The compromise grants the Marcos heirs immunity from criminal and civil prosecution, tax exemption for all property to be retained by them.

April, June, July 1998—The Marcos assets are transferred to the escrow accounts established by the Philippine National Bank.

PCGG-Marcos deal voided

December 1998—The Supreme Court voids the compromise agreement between the PCGG and the Marcos heirs.

September 2000—The Sandiganbayan orders the forfeiture to the government of Marcos deposits held in the escrow account. It says the assets represented ill-gotten wealth.

September 2000—Mrs. Marcos files a motion for reconsideration.

January 2002—The Sandiganbayan reverses itself through a resolution penned by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena and rules that "there is no proof on the record that the money in escrow from the Swiss banks" was really owned by the Marcoses.

February 2002—The PCGG challenges the Sandiganbayan decision before the Supreme Court.

Assets 'ill-gotten'

July 2003—The Supreme Court declares as ill-gotten the Marcos assets in escrow at the PNB.

August 2003—Imelda and Irene Marcos seek a reconsideration of the SC ruling.

August 2003—The Swiss justice ministry approves the handover to the Philippine government of the $683 million in escrow.

September 2003—Hawaiian district court Judge Manuel Real rules against the transfer to the Philippines of the $683 million deposits, saying the Philippine Supreme Court's verdict violated "any international sense of due process."

Arroyo slams US court

September 2003—President Macapagal-Arroyo slams the US court order, saying that "foreign courts cannot overturn our own Supreme Court."

November 2003—The SC denies with finality petitions from the Marcos heirs asking the high court to set aside its decision forfeiting the $683M to the government.

January 2004—The SC denies with finality Mrs. Marcos' second motion for reconsideration. It orders the Sandiganbayan to immediately execute the high court's decision forfeiting the $683 million to the government.

March 2004—Agrarian Reform Secretary Jose Mari Ponce says $624 million in forfeited Swiss deposits is already in the hands of the Bureau of Treasury and is to be used for land reform. ***Compiled by Michael R. Cucio and Rey Leyesa, PDI Research Department***

SOURCE: PDI NEWS ARCHIVE

Jesuit says Church also to blame for corruption

From page A1

anti-graft seminar series, Fr. Albert Alejo and Prof. Ronnie Amorado said the Church should first look into itself before pontificating and "cursing society" for the latter's corrupt ways.

"Priests who rely on illegal loggers and *jueteng* operators for their personal and church needs must make that decision at the end of the day," Alejo said Friday at the first of the seminar series held at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulation Board office.

In his lecture, Amorado of the Ateneo de Davao University said the Church should take part of the blame for promoting corruption in the country.

"The Catholic Church played a [big role] in corrupting the system," he said, pointing out that during the colonial era, priests and Church leaders did nothing against, if not directly benefited from, the excesses of the local Spanish rulers who were generally using "public office for private ends."

"Remember, there was then no separation of powers between the Church and the State. It was a very powerful Church, with little accountability," Amorado said.

Even now, the Church is still to fully account for its Sunday collections and other donations, he said.

The Philippine Jesuits' "Ehem! A Manual for Deepening Involvement in Combating Corruption" lists as among the old corrupt practices "falsification of accounting documents; embezzlement of public funds; obliging *cabezas de barangay* to sign blank financial statements; nonremittance of taxes; and solicitation of gifts by the governors during official visits."

Donations, not taxes

Alejo, director of the Mindanawan Initiatives for Cultural Dialogue and Research and Publication Office of the Ateneo de Davao University, said the Church should start with how it was teaching catechism and dogma.

"Partly, the Church teaches generosity and charity, but in the form of donations to [it], not for the payment of taxes," he said in reaction to the comment of an LTFRB official that while government workers suffered the stigma of graft, the private sector was equally corrupt.

During a break in the seminar, Alejo said the Church was dwelling too much on "liturgical and spiritual realities" and not giving due emphasis to the "social reality."

He said the Church had failed to show that "being a good Christian entails being a good citizen, and being a good citizen entails paying one's taxes."

This failure has given rise to the mentality that if a Christian has money to spare, he should give it to the Church rather than the government, Alejo said.

"There is a distortion here," he said.

Lopsided distribution of wealth

Alejo said the other problems of the Church involved the lopsided manner in which its wealth was distributed.

"There are poor and very rich parishes, but somehow they don't help each other," he said.

He also noted a supposed tendency of the Church to turn a blind eye on the wayward ways of its rich and powerful patrons: "Some Church people are [so] close to the rich that it prevents them from saying things critical of those people."

But Alejo said that within the Church, there were efforts to confront its own corruption and to look into the areas of responsibility that it had failed to address.

He said nuns and other Church people had been requesting that "Ehem!" seminars be conducted in their convents or educational institutions.

Homilies on graft

He also said the Church would be devoting three Sunday homilies to the problem of graft.

"Everywhere I go, I smell decay. But I also see magnanimity and the people's struggle to live a life of integrity," Alejo said.

"Ehem!" is the Philippine Jesuits' contribution to the fight against graft.

Alejo and Amorado have conducted more than 100 seminars on graft nationwide in two years.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 6, 2005
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Let your light shine on all people

Thus says the Lord:

Fast by sharing your food with the hungry, bring to your house the homeless, clothe the one you see naked and do not turn away from your own kin.

Then will your light will break forth as the dawn and your healing come in a flash.

Your righteousness will be your vanguard, the Glory of Yahweh your rearguard.

Then you will call and Yahweh will answer, you will cry and he will say, I am here.

If you remove from your midst the yoke, the clenched fist and the wicked word, if you share your food with the hungry and give relief to the oppressed, then your light will rise in the dark, your night will be like noon.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

I bear witness to the crucified Christ

When I came, my brothers and sisters, to reveal to you the mystery of God's plan I did not count on eloquence or on a show of learning. I was determined not to know anything among you but Jesus, the Messiah, and a crucified Messiah. I myself came weak, fearful and trembling; my words and preaching were not brilliant or clever to win listeners. It was, rather, a demonstration of spirit and power, so that your faith might be a matter, not of human wisdom, but of God's power.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Salt and light of the world

Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt has lost its strength, how can it be made salty again? It has become useless. It can only be thrown away and people will trample on it.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a mountain cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and covers it; instead it is put on a lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before others, so that they may see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven."

Commentary

We are told what we are—salt of the earth, light for the world, those who show forth the Father's goodness to others so that they come to praise our Father. How? Isaiah reminds us: Share our bread with the hungry, provide shelter and dignity, care for our own—be compassionate, enlarge the boundaries of our justice and care for others and our light will break forth like the dawn! And in so doing we will be healed, our prayers heard and God will be near us. But we must be on guard not to lose our saltiness—not to resist or take the Word of God for granted or to let our light go out—or lost in the world's false brightness, as the stars cannot be seen because of the lights of a city dimming their sight. We, together, and separately must practice justice and be holy if we are the beloved children of our Father.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

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Oil firms say warning 'factual,' not 'blackmail'

By Abigail L. Ho

THE WARNING from oil firms that fuel prices will increase if their value-added tax exemptions are lifted is "factual" and not a form of blackmail, an oil industry executive said yesterday.

Reacting to Sen. Manuel Villar's remark on Friday that oil firms were airing threats of higher oil prices to prevent the lifting of their VAT exemptions, Fernando Martinez, chair of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (Ippca), said the lawmaker did not seem to know what he was talking about.

"That's not blackmail. That's factual. He is so wrong. He doesn't seem to get it," Martinez said in a phone interview.

In a position paper submitted to the Senate committee on ways and means, the Ippca had warned that the price of the socially sensitive diesel would increase by P2.59 a liter and that of unleaded gasoline by P2.94 a liter should oil firms be subjected to a 12-percent VAT rate.

Roberto Kanapi, Shell general manager for external affairs, said: "Shell will increase product prices effective 12:01 a.m. tomorrow (Sunday) as follows: gasoline, 40 centavos a liter; diesel and kerosene, 30 centavos a liter; and LPG (liquefied petroleum gas), 40 centavos a kilo.

"This increase is the start of a more frequent review of product prices to reflect market conditions. Discounts to the transport sector will remain."

Martinez said independent oil firms and even the major players of the oil industry had never hidden the fact that should their VAT exemptions be lifted, consumers would have to shoulder the added cost.

He said the warning of higher pump prices had been aired starting from the hearings at the House of Representatives in December up to the time that the lifting of the oil firms' VAT exemptions was approved by the chamber last week.

Now, with hearings being conducted at the Senate, oil firms are airing the same warning of having to pass on the tax burden to consumers, he said.

GMA orders sale of gov't's ₱47-B stake in San Miguel Corp.

From page A1

estimate its worth at about $500 to $800 million (P27.3 to P43.7 billion).

Yorac said the government's goal has always been to unload the SMC shares that it controls.

"The government has no business being in business because it is too corrupt," she said earlier.

Skepticism

The move to dispose of the government's SMC stake, coming as it did amid the administration's frantic attempts to tame a massive budget deficit and avert an international credit downgrade, was met with skepticism.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said the President's decision was "ill-conceived" and raised legal and constitutional questions because of the ownership dispute over the SMC shares.

He also questioned the government's rush to divest the SMC stake which are "viable shareholdings," being revenue-earning shares.

Danding hand seen

He hinted that "people manipulating decisions in Malacañang could probably see a killing in the transaction," and said it was "very likely" that SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco would ultimately buy the shares.

Salonga's opinion

But former Senate President Jovito Salonga, the PCGG's first chair, said there was no question the government had a legal right to dispose of the shares.

"But whether the [proceeds] will go ultimately to those who really own it, the coconut farmers, that's a big question mark. That's a question for the coconut farmers themselves to decide," Salonga said in an interview.

Commenting on the President's announcement that the money would go to the coconut industry, Salonga said: "That's what they all say. Even [the late dictator Ferdinand] Marcos said that. But the coconut farmers have not benefited."

Salonga also said the correct value of the SMC shares owned by the government was still being disputed.

The government won a 17-year legal battle for ownership of the coconut levy funds in May 2004 when the Sandiganbayan awarded it the 27 percent bloc of SMC shares.

The PCGG sequestered a 47 percent bloc of SMC shares after the 1986 Edsa people power revolution, claiming it was acquired with funds from the coconut levy imposed on coconut farmers by Marcos.

The PCGG said Cojuangco, who administered the levy, and his associates used the coco levy funds to buy the SMC shares and other coconut industry-related businesses.

Partial ruling

The anti-graft court ruled that the 27 percent originally held by 14 holding companies of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund were owned by the government in trust for the coconut farmers.

The partial ruling however did not cover a separate 20 percent bloc held by Cojuangco, who controls the 15-seat SMC board.

The Sandiganbayan rejected in late December Cojuangco's bid to regain control of the coco levy shares. The case has gone on to the Supreme Court.

Final ruling

Yorac has said the PCGG expects a final ruling on the 20 percent shares that Cojuangco still controls within the year.

"We hope we can also move on to the Supreme Court so that all the cases will be decided almost simultaneously this year," adding that the earliest time that the government could expect to sell the SMC shares would be in 2006.

Buyer takes risk

A PCGG lawyer said the government had a legal right to sell the 27-percent stake because of the Sandiganbayan ruling but "pending a final decision from the Supreme Court, the buyer takes a risk."

Another legal expert said that because of the conflicting claims over the sequestered shares, "whoever buys them runs the risk of losing possession in case a party other than the government is finally declared their lawful owner."

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto, chair of the Privatization Council which handles the sale of government assets, said "there is no lack of interest from investors for the [government] stake in SMC."

An analyst of a foreign brokerage firm said the sale of the government's SMC stake had been talked about for years but never happened.

"It was probably because the shares were still under litigation. Now it is almost clean because of the recent Sandiganbayan ruling," the analyst said.

Doable

Jojo Gonzales, head of research at Philippine Equity Partners, said the plan to sell government's SMC stake may be "doable at this time" because of the buoyant stock market.

Recto said the government's target revenue from the sale would still be determined by the market.

At the close of stock trading Friday, San Miguel A shares traded at P57.50 while B shares closed at P76.50 apiece.

Class A shares are those allowed for sale to Filipinos only, while class B shares are those open to both Filipinos and foreigners.

Data were not immediately available on the breakdown of the government's stake, or how much of class A and B shares it holds.

Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan, who was formerly with the PCGG, said the proceeds of the sale would be "disposed of in accordance with the coco levy funds law."

"It will accrue to the coco levy funds which will be for the benefit of the coconut farmers," she said.

Agri-business ventures

During her visit to Mulanay, the President said the government would pour in funds to develop idle or unproductive coconut lands and other agricultural sites for a host of agribusiness ventures, such as high-yielding crops, poultry and livestock and fish.

She said the development of two million hectares of land for agribusiness and helping three million entrepreneurs would be the source of the 10 million jobs that she has promised to generate during her six-year term.

"So this is my purpose in coming to Mulanay—to launch our one million additional hectares of coconut agribusiness production," Ms Arroyo said.

The President visited a processing center for coconut at the NTC compound in Barangay Butangyod.

She said 500 such processing centers would be set up, one for every 2,000 hectares of new agribusiness production. She said the cost of the centers, at P10 million to P15 million each, would come from the funds of the CIIF. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Michael Lim Ubac*

JDV, Gina find . . .

From page A1

Arroyo, and I have found over the years the Pink Sisters' Mother Prioress, Mary Hermenegildes, an amiable and strong soul.

I sought to quell my grief, my fears and my pain and banish my great confusion, in the prayers that she offered every day without fail, leading to the 40th day from the passing of my daughter.

Sister Incarnita

Unknown to me, the Mother Prioress asked one of the nuns in her congregation, the young Sister Maria Incarnita, to offer special prayers every day for KC. She did so. But unknown to us, already, bless her heart, Sister Maria Incarnita, had started offering daily prayers for KC even before she was asked by the Mother Prioress.

In her prayers, Sister Incarnita asked for an almost impossible sign from the Lord that would indicate KC is now in the bosom of the Almighty, her spirit among the angels and the saints in the eternal sunshine of heaven. The young nun asked the Lord for a pair of shoes. Her only pair was badly worn out and needed to be replaced.

40th day

KC's 40th day came on Jan. 25 2005. We attended a special Mass with the Pink Sisters. For the faithful, the 40th day marks the ascension of the soul of the dead to heaven.

It was the final day of prayers for KC. The morning came and the sign that Sister Incarnita had prayed for was nowhere to be seen. No pair of shoes waited for her.

But the day progressed as though it was a day planned all along for her.

Moment of revelation

The Mother Prioress called for Sister Incarnita. As they stood in her room, in the pale glow of the convent light came the moment of revelation. For there in front of Sister Incarnita was a gleaming new pair of shoes.

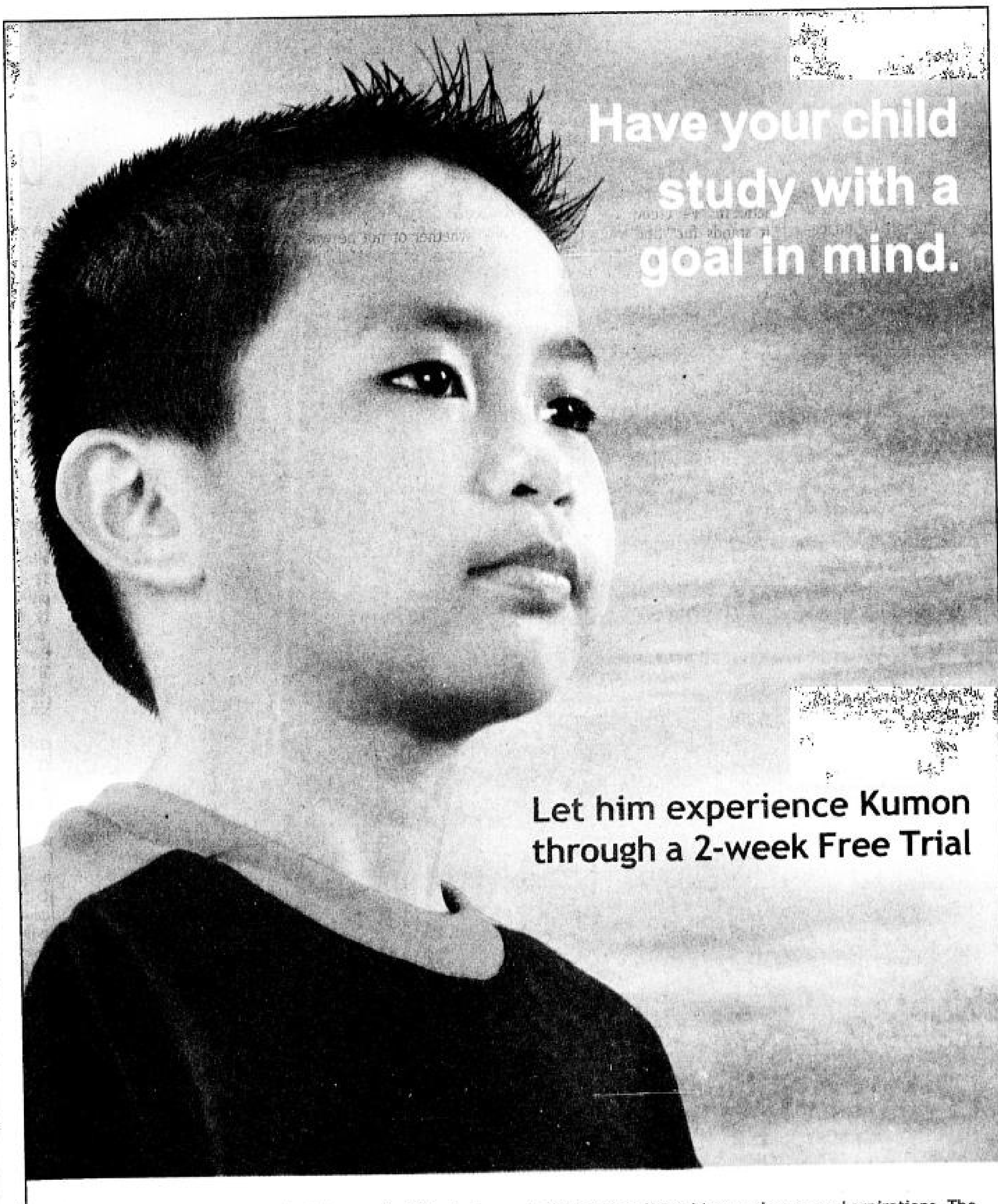
Unknown to the Mother Prioress, unknown to her, and unknown to Joe and I, this was a sign the young nun had asked for. The sign actually came on the eve of the 40th day. It was a gift meant for Sister Mary Hermenegildes, but the pair of shoes 6 1/2 did not fit her. Without knowing that the young nun needed shoes, the Mother Prioress called her to give her the pair. It was perfect for Sister Incarnita, perfect for her size 6 feet.

The sign

"Mother, Mother Prioress," Sister Incarnita cried, "you don't know it, but this is the sign I have been praying for from the Lord that KC is all right and is in good hands."

Was this pair of shoes intended all along for Sister Incarnita in the roundabout wisdom of the Almighty?

I believe so. And this "miracle of the shoes," now tells me that KC, though gone from us, has found her way to God's kingdom where there are no more tears.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Salaam Police helps build bridges

By Leila B. Salaverria

WHAT do you do when your chosen profession clashes with your deeply held religious beliefs?

Build a bridge between the two, according to Sr. Supt. Sahiron Salim, chief of the newly created Salaam ("peace") Police.

And the "bridge of peace" Salim is building is not only for himself, but also for his colleagues in the national police and his brothers in Islam who are embroiled in bitter feuds over police operations tagged as discriminatory.

Salim has been conducting information drives and explaining the tasks and beliefs of each group to the other to foster better relations between Muslims and the mostly Christian members of the PNP.

A rock and a hard place

The task is difficult and Salim seems to be caught between a rock and a hard place.

Policemen say they are only doing their jobs when they arrest Muslims and raid Islamic centers. On the other end, Muslims say the operations are discriminatory and baseless. They accuse authorities of planting evidence.

Salim tries to resolve the controversy by relying on the truth.

"*Hindi kami kumikiling sa isang panig. Kung sino ang may katotohanan doon lang kami... Sinasabi sa Bibliya o sa banal na* Koran, seek the truth and the truth shall set you free (We don't automatically side with anyone. We side with the one who is telling the truth... The Bible or the Holy Koran says seek the truth and the truth shall set you free)," he said.

Salim, who holds office at the PNP headquarters, receives and investigates complaints from Muslims, some of whom are more comfortable talking to him rather than to Christian policemen.

No gender bias

Salim said there were no restrictions based on gender in choosing members of the Salaam police, whose members are all Muslims.

SENIOR Supt. Sahiron Salim leads his men under the Salaam Police unit in prayer. The unit, the name of which means 'peace,' aims to build understanding between police and Muslims. JOAN BONDOC

"As long as they (meet) the requirements, they can join the Salaam Police," he said. One of the two women in the unit is his daughter-in-law.

Currently, the Salaam police has 17 members but it is supposed to have 25 people. Salim said this was not for lack of applicants, but because the qualified ones still have to complete the requirements.

Salaam is supposed to have representatives in regional offices and districts, but Salim said the unit was not yet fully operational because the PNP was still drafting its operational guidelines.

Presidential order

The creation of the Salaam Police was ordered by President Macapaga-Arroyo in April last year following complaints policemen were discriminating against Muslims, especially in its anti-terrorism drive. Salim was designated chief in September.

The division is, at present, housed in a small office inside Camp Crame, a portion of which is reserved as a prayer room. Muslims pray five times a day, and this is one of the pillars of their faith.

Salim himself emphasizes to his men the need for keeping their faith strong.

"They must not forget to pray. That is one of my requirements in the Salaam Police, that they will be God-fearing and always pray so that they will not be lured by Satan," he said.

Salim, who began his law enforcement career when he joined the Philippine Constabulary in 1974, said he himself never forgot to pray even when he was conducting operations.

When he and his men are in the field, he would call for a break and look for a quiet and clean place to pray. After his prayer, operations would resume.

Prayerful team

Prayer will be emphasized more in the Salaam Police after its planned two-story building is completed. The entire second floor will be turned into a mosque. The building itself will stand on a 350-square meter lot in Camp Crame donated by the PNP.

The donation may be taken as a sign of the PNP's commitment to supporting the Salaam Police.

The Salaam Police does not only receive and handle complaints from Muslims. It also conducts information drives and educational activities in Islamic communities.

Salim said he was banking on these to minimize mistrust between the police and Muslims.

In his visits to Muslim communities in Metro Manila, during which he conducts meetings with the community members, Salim calls on his fellow Muslims to practice his "F4" credo.

It stands for "find your true creator," "faith in your true creator," "follow the commandment of your true creator," and "find your legal livelihood."

Salim said the F4 credo was meant to remind Muslims that their faith must remain strong and to steer them towards the right path, especially since some Muslims had been suspected of involvement in the selling of drugs and pirated discs.

He said he tried to tell his fellow Muslims that they would have no one but themselves to blame if the police arrested them for engaging in illegal activities. He also explained to them that the main job of policemen was to enforce the laws, and anyone that violated them, regardless of religion, would be arrested.

Educating both sides

Even as Salim talks to Muslim communities, he also tries to educate his fellow policemen to respect the practices and beliefs of followers of the Islamic faith.

In particular, he tries to tell policemen conducting raids of Islamic centers not to enter the mosques or prayer rooms wearing their shoes as much as possible. He also advises them not to defile the Koran or other religious items, especially since these violations have been raised by other Muslims who have protested raids conducted in Islamic centers.

However, Salim admits he does not get to advise his fellow policemen each time they conduct raids because of the absence the operational guidelines for the Salaam Police.

"They can't put off their operation because there are no rules yet that they have to first consult with the Salaam Police," he said.

But he said once the operational guidelines are completed, he expects coordination between his and other operational units before raids in Muslim centers are conducted.

Criticized

Asked whether or not he was hurt whenever some Muslims would get angry at him for police operations in Islamic communities, he said he left such things up to the Lord.

Salim had his share of criticism after the the recent raid of the Islamic Information Center in Manila that led to the arrest of 16 people and the filing of cases against two for an alleged plot to bomb the Catholic Black Nazarene procession in Quiapo.

Not a few Muslims blamed him for the raid during a rally, saying he apparently connived with the police. He later defended the PNP for the operation.

But Salim said he knew those who believed in doing the right thing sided with him.

He does not want to label as "bad Muslims" people who are angry at him and those who engage in illegal activities then blame the police for doing their jobs.

Inherently, he said, all Muslims were good because their faith promoted peace and respect for others.

"But there are a few Tausug, few Maranao, few Maguindanao, few converts to Islam who are being used by the bad elements, and maybe they are the ones who are angry at what we do," he said.

Salim also said he did not want to label or judge people based on their religion because faith was not the only thing that determined what kind of people they were.

Tolerance

He added people must be tolerant of each other's differences as these did not automatically make them enemies of each other.

"We all came from Adam. No matter what sect, what tribe or what religion we (belong to), we all came from the same origin. We are all brothers and sisters," he said.

In the end, he said, it all came down to seeing a person by how he acted and treated other people.

It is through the spread of these beliefs that Salim hopes to realize his ultimate dream: "Once and for all, I hope that there will be peace and quiet in our country. The word 'salaam' means peace, and that is what the Salaam Police is aiming for."

'Happy Walk' staged today

By Tina G. Santos

BIANCA Marie is 5 years old, and those who love her hope she can have a normal life like any other child.

But, unlike most children in their community in Quezon City, Bianca Marie has Down Syndrome, a congenital condition characterized by mental, physiological and physical deficiencies.

It is estimated that a child with Down Syndrome is born every two hours in the Philippines. But parents often do not know how to provide proper care and where to get much-needed medical attention for such children.

Bianca Marie's mother, Jessa, admitted that her initial reaction when she learned that her daughter had the syndrome was disappointment, confusion and anger.

This is one reason why the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines Inc. (DSAPI) is holding "Happy Walk" to kick off the celebration of the National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month.

DSAPI is a non-stock, non-profit organization that offers support to families with children having the condition. It was founded in 1991 by a group of concerned parents and physicians.

"The group believes that negative reactions of new parents can be replaced with positive attitudes of warmth, love, understanding and hope," Ma. Redetta dela Paz, operations manager of DSAPI, said.

She explained that the walkathon aimed to create awareness and educate people on the disability to dispel fear, promote understanding, and help parents allow their children to lead normal lives.

She added that DSAPI also wanted to encourage acceptance by the community of people with the disability and help secure for them education and employment.

Dela Paz said DSAPI has undertaken various programs and projects over the years to better serve its growing membership.

Its programs include parent counseling, seminars and lectures. It also sponsors medical and dental clinics, special Olympics and educational trips to various parks, museums and schools, among others.

"The organization works hard to give children with the disability a conducive atmosphere of love and understanding that they may reach their real potential," Dela Paz said.

Programs were greatly aided by voluntary services of members, students and friends from all over. But Dela Paz said funds came mainly from membership fees, voluntary contributions and donations.

At least 3,000 people with Down Syndrome, volunteers, doctors, therapists, students, parents, movie and sports personalities and government officials, including Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, were expected to grace today's event, Dela Paz said.

"Everyone with Down Syndrome, who knows someone who does or just wants to support the cause may join 'Happy Walk'," Dela Paz said.

"Happy Walk" will be held today around the Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City, for free. Registration begins at 6 a.m. A brief program and fellowship follows at the Elephant World. The activity is also held simultaneously in Cebu and Davao.

Caloocan inks pact with GSIS

By Tina G. Santos

CALOOCAN City Hall employees can now again avail of loans and benefits from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) after Mayor Enrico Echiverri agreed to settle their unpaid premiums.

According to Echiverri, 1,526 regular and casual employees have received benefits, including dividends amounting to over P1.6 million due them from the GSIS for 2004.

Earlier, GSIS stopped lending to City Hall employees because the past city administration failed to promptly remit premiums to the agency, the mayor said.

Echiverri said that before he took office in July last year, the city government had accumulated over P20 million in unpaid premiums and interest to the GSIS.

Recently, the city signed an agreement with GSIS allowing the local government to pay the arrears in three years.

To enable local public employees to deal with the agency, they will be provided the GSIS E-Card, which will allow them to do transactions online.

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Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Jewels near PBL crown

ANTHONY Washington: There were offers to play in Europe. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Jasmine W. Payo

ALEX Compton again provided the boost the Montaña Jewels sorely needed down the stretch.

Compton led the Jewels within a win of the title after scoring a game-high 23 points over the relentless Welcoat Paintmasters in a 77-67 victory yesterday in Game 3 of the PBL Open Championship series at the Makati Coliseum.

Jon Dan Salvador, the league's Most Valuable Player, finally showcased his all-around brilliance by scoring 17 points and grabbing 15 rebounds.

"I'm really happy with the way the players stepped up in this game," said Jewels coach Robert Sison. "Alex held us together and Jon Dan, we waited for him in two games. He's really the MVP."

Salvador struggled early in the series, averaging only 6.5 points.

The Jewels also got big contributions from Al Magpayo, who finished with 13 points, and Reed Juntilla, who scored all his seven points in the Jewels' pivotal final-quarter run.

After a slim 45-43 margin, Juntilla powered the Jewels early in the fourth period for a 54-49 advantage.

The tandem of Jay-R Reyes and Anthony Washington pulled the Paintmasters within two points, 56-54. But Compton knocked down back-to-back three-pointers for an eight-point bulge, 62-54, at the 4:42 mark.

Chester Tolomia and Marvin Ortiguerra later responded with key triples to narrow the deficit to 67-62 in the final two minutes, but a Compton fastbreak and his steady freethrow shooting erased any hope of a Welcoat comeback.

The Jewels also survived a big game by Welcoat's main men. Tolomia drilled in 22 points, while Washington, who earlier received the Fantastic Freshman award, added 17 points.

After a tight first half, 25-24, Montaña trailed by seven points, 31-24, after Welcoat opened the third period with a 6-0 surge.

But the Jewels managed to move within 40-39 through Salvador.

Welcoat took the series opener, 73-65, but the Jewels leveled the series in Game Two, 55-48.

Salvador and Washington were named to the Mythical First Team with Arwind Santos of Magnolia-FEU, JR Quiñahan of Granny Goose and Mac Cardona of ICTSI-La Salle.

Making up the Second Team were Magnolia-FEU's Warren Ybañez and Dennis Miranda, Welcoat's Marvin Ortiguerra, and Montaña's Al Magpayo and Ariel Capus.

Cardona also received the Scoring Sensation plum after amassing a conference-high 324 points, while Quiñahan, the league's top block shot artist (2.5 bpg), clinched the Defensive Stopper award.

Other winners were Welcoat's Eugene Tan as Mr. Intangible, AMP-Ateneo's Jenkins Mesina as the True Gentleman and Montaña's Al Vergara as Instant Impact awardee.

GAME TUESDAY (*Makati Coliseum*)
3:30 p.m.--Montaña vs Welcoat
(Game 4 of best-of-five finals)

The scores:

MONTAÑA 77—Compton 23, Salvador 17, Magpayo 13, Guerrero 7, Juntilla 7, Vergara 5, Capus 3, Dela Cuesta 2, Baguion 0, Espiritu 0, Mercado 0.

WELCOAT 67—Tolomia 22, Washington 17, Tan 8, Ortiguerra 6, Reyes 6, Najorda 5, Guevarra 3, Dy 0, Sta.Maria 0, Coching 0, Gamboa 0, Dulay 0.

Quarters: 16-10, 24-25, 45-43, 77-67.

Washington: Fantastic Freshman

HE WAS a virtual unknown four months ago. But rookie Anthony Washington showed the flash and grit of a big-time player that quickly made a strong impression in amateur basketball.

His moves looked effortless, but the 6-foot-7 Fil-Am confessed that not everything came easy.

"It was pretty tough," said Washington, who won the Fantastic Freshman award in the PBL Open Championship. "There were a lot of things I needed to adjust to, so I was pretty inconsistent. I had to learn the Filipino style of basketball."

But Washington did adapt in no time. In fact, in just a few months of play, the 22-year-old already caught the eye of RP Team head coach Chot Reyes, who invited him to the 40-man national pool.

Washington revealed that there were offers to play elsewhere.

"I had offers to play in Europe—in Germany, Belgium. I had an option of playing in the States professionally," disclosed Washington. "But it was really important to me, especially to my mother, to come back here and play."

Born on Nov. 10, 1981 in Zambales, Washington's family moved to the US in 1983.

He lived in Virginia with his father Victor, an American navy, and mother Vivian Decatoria, a native of Leyte.

Growing up, he remembered to be one of the tallest kids in school. He proved to be athletic as well, and soon got hooked in basketball.

Washington became a high school star, averaging 25 points and 12 rebounds for the Masters School varsity team in New York.

In college, Washington played for Queens College, New York for a year. But he later moved to Eckerd College in Florida to play in the NCAA Division II for three years.

Jasmine W. Payo

WHAT'S INSIDE
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- PSC needs P70M more for venues /A32
- UST, La Salle seek finals /A29

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Phone Pals want to present Banal with equalizer

GAME TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
(Game 4 best-of-seven Finals)
6:20 p.m.—Awarding
(best player of the conference)
6:30 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Barangay Ginebra

Game 1—Talk 'N Text d. Barangay Ginebra, 89-71 (forfeited)
Game 2—Barangay Ginebra d. Talk 'N Text, 106-105
Game 3—Talk 'N Text d. Barangay Ginebra, 102-66

TALK 'N Text will be motivated by two factors when the Phone Pals seek to even up matters against the Barangay Ginebra Kings in Game 4 of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup Finals today at the Araneta Coliseum.

First; coach Joel Banal expects no less than a victory as a fitting birthday present from the Phone Pals that would equalize the series at 2-2 and reduce the championship showdown into a best-of-three affair.

Banal also plans to make an offer the Phone Pals will find hard to turn down.

"Our goal is to even up the series and I will make them (Phone Pals) an offer they can't refuse," said Banal, who turns 47 today.

A reliable source said Banal will probably dangle a lucrative bonus package for the Phone Pals to defeat the crowd-favorite Kings two games in succession.

The Phone Pals crushed the Kings in Game 3, 102-66, and another victory tonight will keep them on track of duplicating their 2003 All-Filipino Cup championship exploits.

Banal and the Phone Pals lost the first two games of that 2003 title series before posting four straight victories over the Coca-Cola Tigers to capture their first PBA title after seven fruitless seasons.

"We just want to win and extend the series come Sunday (today). I don't want to think about that," said Banal after Friday's blowout win which the Phone Pals achieved without Asi Taulava.

Following the Kings' monumental setback, coach Siot Tanquingcen was man enough to again admit his mistakes.

"It's not the players' fault, we didn't give them the right instructions," said Tanquingcen. "The effort was there but I wasn't able to do my job."

The Kings knew that the strength of the Phone Pals comes from the scoring tandem of Willie Miller and Jimmy Alapag but they did nothing to stop them.

"I wouldn't say we were lax. I wasn't just quick enough with the right adjustment to get things done," said Tanquingcen.

"It was basically my failure to give the proper strategy on the court. But I promise that you'll see a different Ginebra on Sunday (today)," he added.

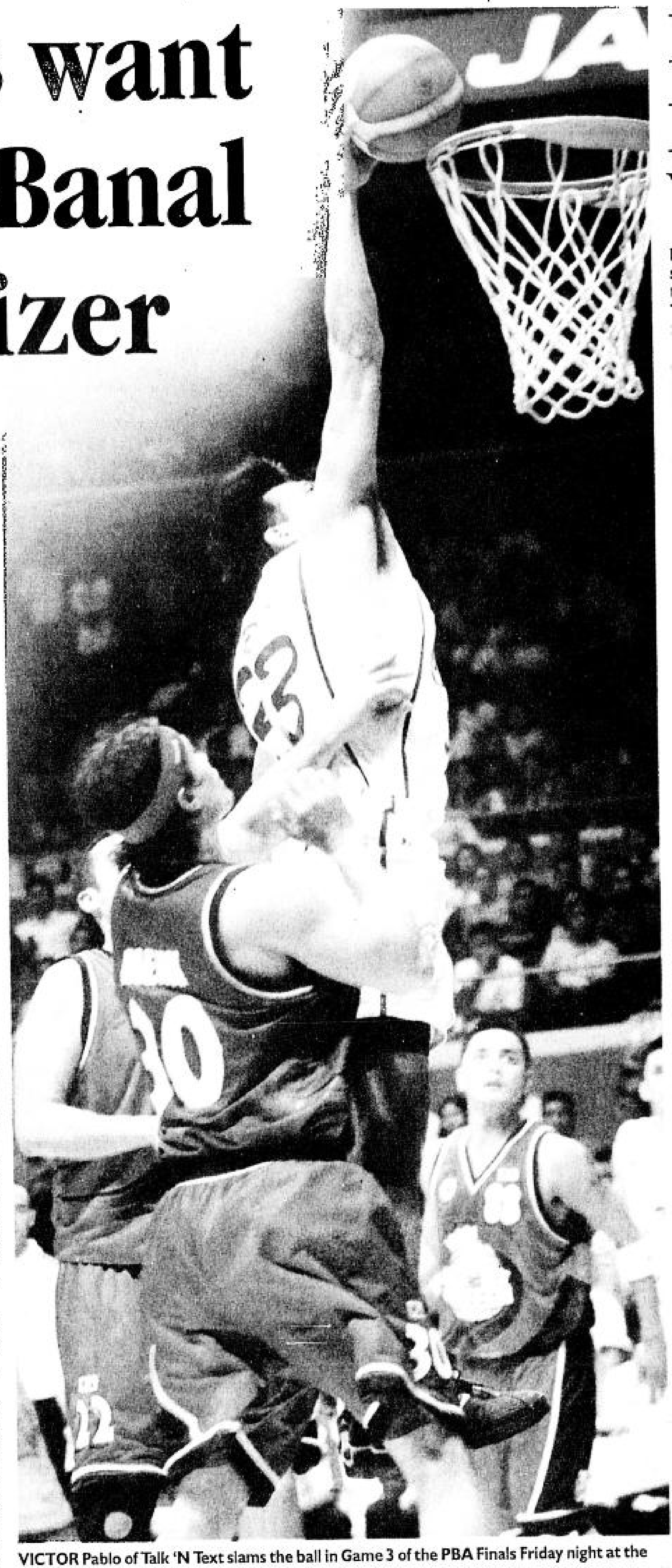
With the Talk 'N Text management deciding not to field in Taulava for fear of another forfeiture as what happened after Game 1, Eric Menk, Rommel Adducul and Andy Seigle could operate in the paint with little resistance.

But again, the desire of the Phone Pals, particularly Mark Telan, Yancy de Ocampo and Victor Pablo could negate Ginebra's dominance in the shaded lane.

"All, we were thinking of was to win Game 3. We treated it as the start of the championship series without thinking about the past games," said Miller, whose triple-double went to naught after their 106-105 defeat in Game 2.

"I don't care if I don't register a triple-double as long as we win. We should be more aggressive in Game 4 if we want to tie the series," he added.

Despite a court order asking the league to reinstate Taulava, commissioner Noli Eala and the PBA board refused to lift an indefinite suspension slapped on the Fil-Tongan last year based on a Department of Justice ruling that Asi and five other Fil-foreign players had faked their citizenship papers.



VICTOR Pablo of Talk 'N Text slams the ball in Game 3 of the PBA Finals Friday night at the Araneta Coliseum. The Phone Pals won, 102-66. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

PBA Finals proceeding well—Eala

DESPITE the recent controversies, commissioner Noli Eala can afford to smile now with the Finals of the PBA Philippine Cup between Talk 'N Text and Barangay Ginebra headed for resolution on the basketball court.

The PBA Board of Governors renewed its confidence on the commissioner by unanimously upholding Eala's ruling to forfeit Game 1 of the best-of-seven series in favor of the Gin Kings.

"The silver lining in all of these is that the series has proceeded without most of the outside distractions," said Eala following the board's rejection of Talk 'N Text's appeal.

"Now, the series can be decided on the basketball court, not in a courtroom," he added.

Non-appealable, the decision of the board is final and executory, affirming an earlier ruling that Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text is ineligible based on PBA rules.

Eala, however, has to face a contempt charge filed by Taulava's lawyer, Eduardo Francisco, a day after the commissioner nullified the 89-71 Game 1 victory of the Phone Pals.

Francisco said Eala's forfeiture of Game 1 was an open defiance of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court's decision ordering Taulava to resume his contractual duties with the Phone Pals.

Though Eala has yet to secure a copy of Francisco's petition, a hearing is set at the sala of QC RTC Branch 222 Judge Rogelio Pizarro on Tuesday.

"We have not violated any law," said Eala. "We have not, willfully or deliberately, defied any court order."

Eala hopes the decision of the board will finally put the Taulava issue to rest.

"I hope it will somehow end the controversies as far as league rules are concerned," said Eala.

"I'm truly grateful they supported my decision, especially since it was a unanimous vote," he added.

Arigo makes Calma's list

HECTOR Calma, a many-time national team standout who has had his share of glory in the international scene, has an idea of what the country's next hoop squad will look like.

San Miguel's Danny Seigle, Ginebra's Eric Menk and Coca-Cola's Rafi Reavis up front and Ginebra's Jayjay Helterbrand and Coca-Cola's John Arigo at the back.

Calma is especially fond of Arigo, the 6'4" guard of the Tigers, where the all-time great also serves as team manager.

"John is a very disciplined man," Calma said. "Very focused. He is very dedicated to his job and you don't get to see that often."

Calma said Arigo is a strong player in the sense that he is unafraid to take responsibilities.

"He will take the shot if he has to, even at crunchtime, never mind that he may be blamed if he fails," Calma, who saw action in the 1978 ABC youth and 1990 Asian Games tournaments, said.

Calma said the point guard position has evolved through the years. And with Arigo's leadership and ball-handling qualities, he may just represent the new breed of court generals.

"Before, you always see a small guy manning the point," the 5-foot-8 Calma said. "Now, point guards can be as tall as 6-4, like John."

Arigo's versatility, according to Calma, is one of the reasons why he made it to the initial list of coach Chot Reyes' team.

"We need tall men for all positions," explained Calma, known as The Director in his prime. "John's advantage is he can play other positions. He can attack the basket and the next moment, you see him directing the play or taking a long jumper."

Taulava hopeful of best decision

TAULAVA PDI PHOTO

ASI TAULAVA has vowed to heed the decision of a Quezon City court even if it runs contrary to what he has been fighting for.

"It's really up to the court. Whatever they say, I'll just have to follow the rules of the land," said Taulava, Talk 'N Text's biggest cheer leader during the Phone Pals' 102-66 Game 3 victory Friday.

"If they (the court) say I come back to the PBA, I'll come back."

Left with no choice but to egg on his teammates from the sidelines, Taulava continued to hope he would be able to rejoin the Phone Pals, especially in the best-of-seven PBA Philippine Cup Finals series against the Barangay Ginebra Kings.

"I wish there's a chance I could be out there right now and be allowed to help my teammates defend our championship," said Taulava.

"But it's difficult right now. Everything is in the court and let's see where it goes from there," he added.

After Taulava played in Game 1, the PBA nullified the Phone Pals' 89-71 victory in favor of the Kings, as it penalized TNT for fielding a player considered ineligible by the league.

The Phone Pals had activated Taulava after a Quezon City court ordered the PBA to lift the suspension on the 2003 MVP and resume his contractual obligations with TNT.

Taulava, through his lawyer, later filed a petition to hold PBA Commissioner Noli Eala in contempt following the latter's decision to bar him.

Eala earlier filed a motion to reverse the QC court's favorable ruling on Taulava. The hearing on Eala's motion was set for Tuesday at the sala of Judge Rogelio Pizarro of QC RTC Branch 222.

"It seems like I'm such a bad person right now, like fighting-the-commissioner stuff which I really don't need to do," said Taulava. "I'm just obeying the rules of the court."

"So it really comes down to Tuesday's decision by the court. Let's see what's gonna happen," he added. *June Navarro*

Interclub goes for gold

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THIS early, the list of entries in the PAL Interclub Golf Championships has reached record levels.

Who said the country is in financial crisis and our golfers have started scrimping on money?

With still almost two months away from blastoff, the PAL Interclub has already drawn 146 teams, which is a record since the tournament's birth 58 years ago.

The 57th edition of the PAL Interclub last year in Cagayan de Oro City drew 144 teams. Del Monte was the surprise Men's Regular champion and Luisita won the Seniors crown as expected.

There are now 74 teams entered in the Men's Regular and 72 in the Seniors. The roster could yet swell even before play could begin on Feb. 25, the start of the Seniors tournament in Bacolod City involving players 55 years old and above.

Hosting both the Seniors on Feb. 25-27 and the Men's Regular on March 2-5 are the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club in downtown Bacolod and the Bacolod Golf and Country Club in nearby Murcia.

Both playing par-70, the two courses have hosted the Interclub many times in the past. This is the 15th time that Bacolod and its neighboring towns will host the PAL event, second only to the Interclub's former home, Cebu.

Already, Interclub chair Domingo "Mengdo" T. Duerme Jr. has expressed optimism the twin championships will be a success once more.

"We have always enjoyed playing in Bacolod," he said. "The warm reception and strong support of our Negrense friends, coupled with the superb condition of the host courses, should make for a successful tournament."

It is worth noting that there are a combined 58 international teams in both divisions—the most ever in the fabled history of the Interclub. Among them are teams coming from seven countries—the United States, Canada, Australia, China, Japan, Singapore and Saudi Arabia. To see action for the first time are clubs from Las Vegas in the Men's Regular and Mindanao State University in the Seniors category. Teams from Taiwan and British Columbia, both absent last year, are returning to Seniors play.

If only to prove that the PAL Interclub has achieved that stature of world prominence as it is now universally known as the national club championships of the Philippines, the event has attracted anew a clutch of sponsors and backers. Airbus, GE Aircraft Engines, Boeing, Mastercard International, Globe Platinum, Joey 92.3, Royal Caribbean International and People Asia are the major sponsors. The corporate sponsors include Radio Mindanao Network, Premier Wine & Spirits, Fortune Tobacco and 96.3 WRock. Other backers are RJ Broadcasting Network, INQ7.net, Asia Brewery and Century Park Hotel.

I am particularly fond of covering the PAL Interclub because the event forms part of my formative years as a sportswriter. I had cut my sports writing teeth covering the Interclub almost yearly from '70s, starting in Cebu when Cebu was still its official home. Oh, my, when I finally write my memoirs, the PAL Interclub will play a major role.

This year, the PAL Interclub has adopted a theme for the first time—"Go for Gold." In explaining the reason behind the slogan, Jess Garcia, the Interclub vice chair who coined that battle cry, according to Mengdo Duerme, said: "Just going for the highest prize."

That's cute. It means the Interclub soldiers never rest on their laurels, not even sleeping a wink maybe while at it.

Here's a glass to dedication.

***

FASTBREAK. For the record, Tess G. Landrito is from WWW Express, not DHL, although her boss, Rod V. Feliciano remains chair of DHL . . . My gratitude to Harry M. Paltongan of the San Beda Law Golf Club Inc. The good lawyer sent me a P1,500 ticket to join their tournament at Navy on Feb. 18 for the benefit of the SBC Legal Aid Clinic. Harry said the SBC Legal Aid Clinic headed by Plaridel "Jun" J. Bohol II, provides free legal aid to indigent litigants "who are usually deprived of fair and adequate legal representation in our justice system." I'm sorry I can't make it due to a previous commitment, but rest assured I would support your noble cause in any way I can. Good luck!

Ababa's life brightens up

National Caddies champ falls under NCO program

By Musong R. Castillo

JONEL Ababa took a boat to Manila last week, carrying a borrowed set of clubs, some raggedy old clothes and uncertain at what the future held.

JONEL Ababa (2ndfrom right) receives his National Caddies Open champion's trophy from (left) Tony Arevalo, NCO co-chair Ben Abalos, tournament director Tommy Manotoc and NCO co-chair Hermie Esguerra during the awarding ceremony at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. JESS YUSON

He didn't even have the money for a ticket back to Apo Golf Davao.

Like 135 others, the 20-year-old took his chances in the National Caddies' Open, a tournament conceptualized, organized and carried out solely for needy bag-toters.

The third to the youngest child in a brood of 11, poverty allowed Jonel only an elementary education, even as two of his siblings died because the family did not have the means for decent medical treatment.

He started caddying at Apo when he was 12, an age when children with better fortunes spend time out of school playing.

"I needed to work to help the family," Jonel said in Filipino. "For a lot of us who grew up in Apo (Golf), caddying is the main source of livelihood."

Gifted with a natural, well-rounded swing, Ababa wrested the lead after 36 holes in Calatagan and held fort under trying conditions to be the first of three caddies who will fall under the NCO program that will give them a better life.

"This opportunity does not come very often. I will give myself to the program, take my family out of poverty and help the country."

The prime movers of the event—Benjamin Abalos, Hermie Esguerra, Tony Arevalo and Tommy Manotoc—all gave moving speeches during the awards ceremonies, thanking backers, the FG Sports Foundation, Pagcor, San Miguel Corp., Nike Golf and the Philippine Sports Commission while maintaining their commitment to help.

Ababa will be joined by fellow Davaoeños Joseph and Mario Labajo, second and third in the tournament, respectively, in training as the NCO aims to produce amateur champions and RP Team representatives within the next couple of years.

"I will just go back to my family for a while," said Mario in Filipino.

Mario, 34, has four kids he can barely support with his job at the nine-hole Matina course in Davao.

Joseph, on the other hand, tried his luck in Manila a few years ago and is a regular at Valley Golf. He is single and is willing to give all his time to the NCO program.

The program will subject all of them to a complete medical test courtesy of the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa through Claudine Garcia, a golf nut who called up the organizers to volunteer.

After a lot of travel and four days of golf in brutal conditions on three different layouts, Jonel, Joseph and Mario can now look ahead with a lot of optimism—for their lives have just been changed forever.

PACTOLERIN

PAGUNSAN

Konica Minolta tilt draws top 40 pros

FORTY of the country's top pros will trade shots in the Celebrity Tournament of the Konica Minolta Pro-Am on Tuesday at the Riviera in Silang, Cavite.

Mars Pucay, Antonio Lascuña, Rey Pagunsan, Danny Zarate and former Philippine Open champion Robert Pactolerin banner a field that will be paired with the likes of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, former President Ramos and NGAP president Benny Gopez in the 18-hole event serving as aperitif in the P1.5-million Konica Minolta Pro-Am Feb. 9-12 at Riviera's Langer.

"We expect some strong teams but in essence, the Celebrity Tournament will be a day of fun, especially for the esteemed friends of U-Bix who will be partnered with top pros," said U-Bix top honcho Bert Bravo.

The all-new, powerful Toyota Hi-Lux will be staked at No. 4 as a hole-in-one prize, courtesy of Toyota Motor Philippines through vice president Danny Isla, even as Comm. Danny Pizarro (ret.), the Riviera president, assured the readiness of Langer for the tournament.

"My staff headed by Buddy (Resurreccion), Eric (Gozo) and Henry (Arabelo) have put everything in place at our Langer course," said Pizarro. "It's all systems go."

Among those taking part are Takatoshi Kawakami, president of Brother International; Tomoyuki Koike, president of Philippine Resins Industries Inc., and Motoi Azumi, EVP, Philippine ZResins Industries Inc.

The champion, runner-up and third placer will receive cash prizes, with their amateur partners receiving merchandise in the event supported by Riso, Epson, Brother Office, Casio, Okamura, Planex Network, ServiceMaster, Terminix, Merry Maids, Grappa's Ristorante, Caffe Appassionato, Pivo Praha, WineMaster, Pagcor, Mizuno, DHL-WWW Express, PSC, Bravo Golf and Rowell Group.

Defending champions Gerard Cantada and JR Tanpinco will lead the chase for the nearly P200,000 top prize staked by Bravo and Shoei Yamana, the executive director of Konica Minolta Business Technologies Corp. of Japan.

Recently, Yamana inked a partnership with Bravo for U-Bix, which has been staging the Pro-Am since 2001, to have exclusive distributorship of Konica Minolta machines in the Philippines starting April.

Only 110 teams will be accepted in the tournament, which stakes the Bravo Cup, and will have Taby Tabaniag, Jake Ayson and Al Mendoza as rules officials. For registration, call NGAP offices (5256987, 5245160) and Riviera (8889127, 046-2868, 046-4142837).

Forest Hills sweeps Southwoods in Ladies Fed League inaugurals

FOREST Hills launched its campaign with a crunching 3-0 sweep of Manila Southwoods at home in the opening matches of the 2005 Ladies Federation Golf League in various venues, recently.

Violy Pegels and Naty Toribio highlighted the Forest sweep of its sister team with a 6 and 4 domination of Claire Ong and Marissa Sison in the high-low match.

Lily Young-Cecille Tan (alternate shots) and Irene Dy-Phine Obmaces (aggregate) also won their respective matches against the tandems of Claudine Garcia-Tere Arevalo and Connie Campos-Lilia Paterro to give Forest Hills its first win in Group II.

Sharing the limelight were Manila Golf, Sta. Elena and Orchard, which all chalked up 2-1 wins versus separate opponents in the tourney sponsored by Prudential Bank.

Manila Golf rode on the victories of May Neri-Auring Carlos (high-low) and Lolita Sy-Sylvia Ting (aggregate) to turn back Tagaytay Highlands, 2-1. The Highlanders salvaged the alternate shots point through Maribel Kawsek-Isa Velayo.

Blowout wins by Rio Co-Gretchen Recto (high-low) and Lily Chan-Angie Co (aggregate) powered Sta. Elena past Valley while Irene Tatsumi-Sarah Cruz (alternate) in Group II and Nancy Tsay-Medy Agustin (aggregate) delivered the needed points for Orchard against Riviera in Group I.

Next week's matches feature Manila Golf and Orchard disputing the lead and Highlands battling Riviera in Group I while Sta. Elena plays Forest Hills and Southwoods faces Valley in Group II.

The top teams in each group after the home-and-away round-robin series will advance to the quarterfinals on April 7. The semis is set on April 14 and the finals on April 21.

Recto-Avena nears Mango Tee double

CHITO Recto and Abe Avena bucked the difficult conditions to seize the lead in both the low net and low gross divisions after the first three days of competition in the 21st Mango Tee member-guest tournament presented by Smart Infinity and Shell Velocity at the Alabang Country Club course.

Recto and Avena, who are entered in Class B, were ahead after scoring a 36-hole aggregate of net 154 on rounds of 81 and 73 points, respectively, with half of the record 640-player roster still to complete their rounds in the weekend.

Recto and Avena, the overall champs in 2002, likewise put themselves in a position to match the rare double victory achieved by OV Espiritu-Tommy Manotoc last year as their gross effort of 110 installed them the provisional leaders.

The pairs of Espiritu-Manotoc and Francis Jimenez-JR Tanpinco need at least 47 points in their second rounds to make a steal.

The four Mitsubishi vehicles - Montero and Grandis, Adventure and Lancer GLS put up by Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, Inc. and Citimotors – as well as the carts from Turf Co. (Club Car) and Kart Plaza Manufacturing (Yamaha) at stake as hole-in-one prizes remained untouched. Max Roque came two inches close to winning the Adventure with a superb tee-shot on No. 12 on Thursday.

The tourney's major sponsors are Taylor Made adidas/Golf Depot, F.E. Zuellig/Omega Watch, Sharp Philippines and Philippine Airlines. Ayala Greenfield Estate, Chinatrust, Foodlink and Standard Chartered are the area sponsors while Airfreight 2100/Corporate Air, Inc., Nescafe, Nestea, Pepsi Cola and Security Bank/Diners Club are the premium sponsors.

Recto and Avena were also up by five points over Bernie Bernardo-Cesar Castro in the Class B category. The father-and-son partnership of Arnold and Rico Brizuela led Class A with their 139, up by 3 on Carlo Magno and Ike Hernandez, Peter Co-Jun Puno (147) led Cesar Velasco-Art Ampaya in Class C and Allen Macasaet-Alejandro Revilla (144) paced Carlito Reyes-GB Sales Jr.

Rolly Camu, COO of the affair, said the day's scores can be viewed via www.acci.com.ph/mt.html.

More than a million pesos in tournament and raffle prizes will be given away tonight, according to Mango Tee chair Jun Galindez.

The top 10 teams as of Friday:

Low Net: 154 Chito Recto-Abe Avena (Class B), 149 Bernie Bernardo-Cesar Castro (Class B), 147 Peter Co-Jun Puno (Class C), 145 Cesar Velasco-Art Ampaya (Class C), 144 Allen Macasaet-Alejandro Revilla (Class D), 140 Cris Arcilla-Gilbert Arcilla (Class B), Elson Dagondon-Jude Famor (Class C), 140 Ging Olivarez-Alejandro Limjap (Class C), 139 Arnold Brizuela-Rico Brizuela (Class A), 138 Carlito Reyes-GB Sales Jr. (Class D), 138 Gabby Ongpin-Bien Guevarra (Class D)

Low Gross: 110 C. Recto-A. Avena, 109 William Chiongbian-Pico Sarmiento, 101 Butch Escober-Jeric Hechanova, 96 Edwin Arcilla-Alan Arcilla, 96 A. Brizuela-R. Brizuela, 87 Greg Arano-Jose Nepomuceno, 86 Peter Co-Jun Puno, 83 Ramon Tapales-Lino Magpantay, 82 Cris Arcilla-Gilbert Arcilla, 80 B. Bernardo-C. Castro

Bardon challenges Jaro tonight

FAIR-HAIRED boy Jojo Bardon goes into his toughest fight to date as he challenges reigning RP junior flyweight champ Sonny Boy Jaro in a 12-round battle tonight headlining the "Engkwentro sa San Carlos Part II" at the San Carlos City Auditorium.

Bardon, the top-ranked challenger fighting out of the Wakee Salud-Anol Jaca Stable of Cebu, will test his mettle against the vastly improved Jaro of Manila.

The championship belt, to be awarded by Hon. Gingo Valmayor, is donated by the San Carlos City Boxing Club.

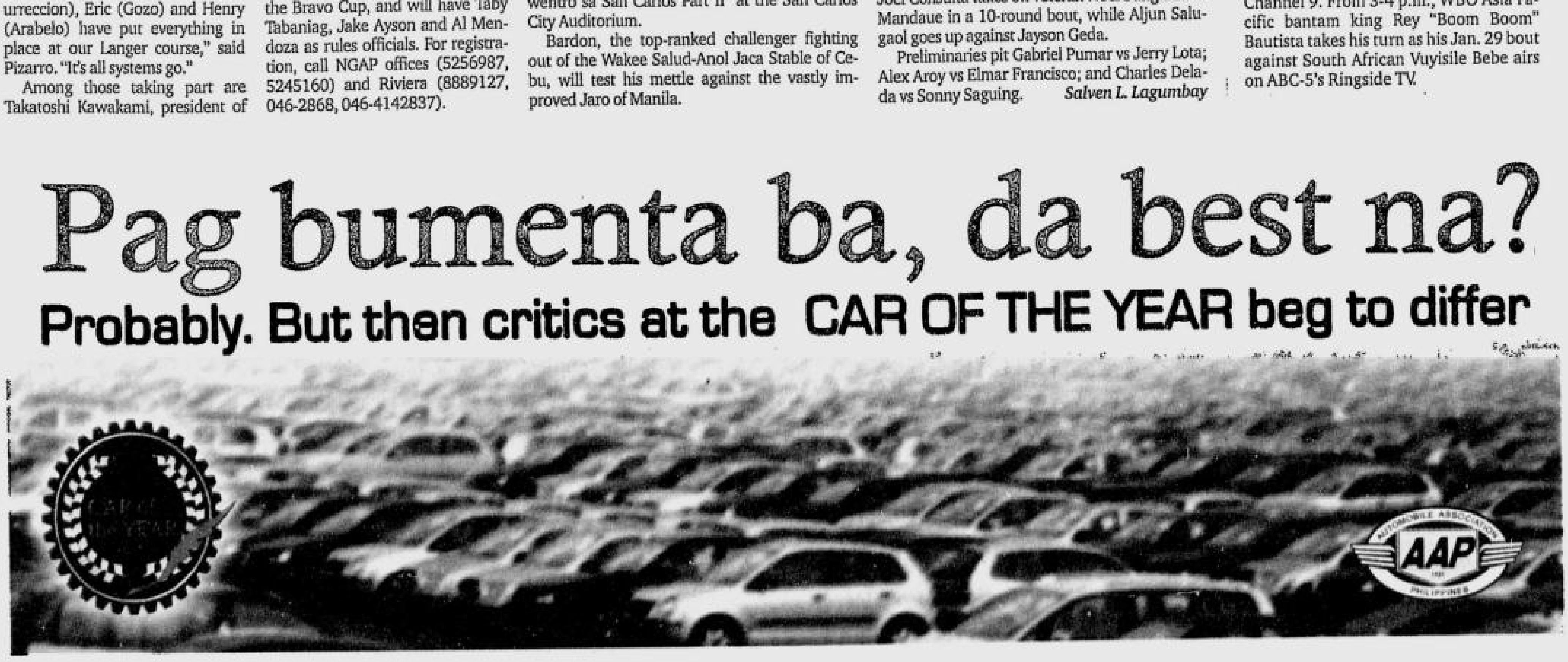
In the chief support, PBF No. 5 superbantam Joel Consulta takes on veteran Noel Sungahid of Mandaue in a 10-round bout, while Aljun Salugaol goes up against Jayson Geda.

Preliminaries pit Gabriel Pumar vs Jerry Lota; Alex Aroy vs Elmar Francisco; and Charles Delada vs Sonny Saguing. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

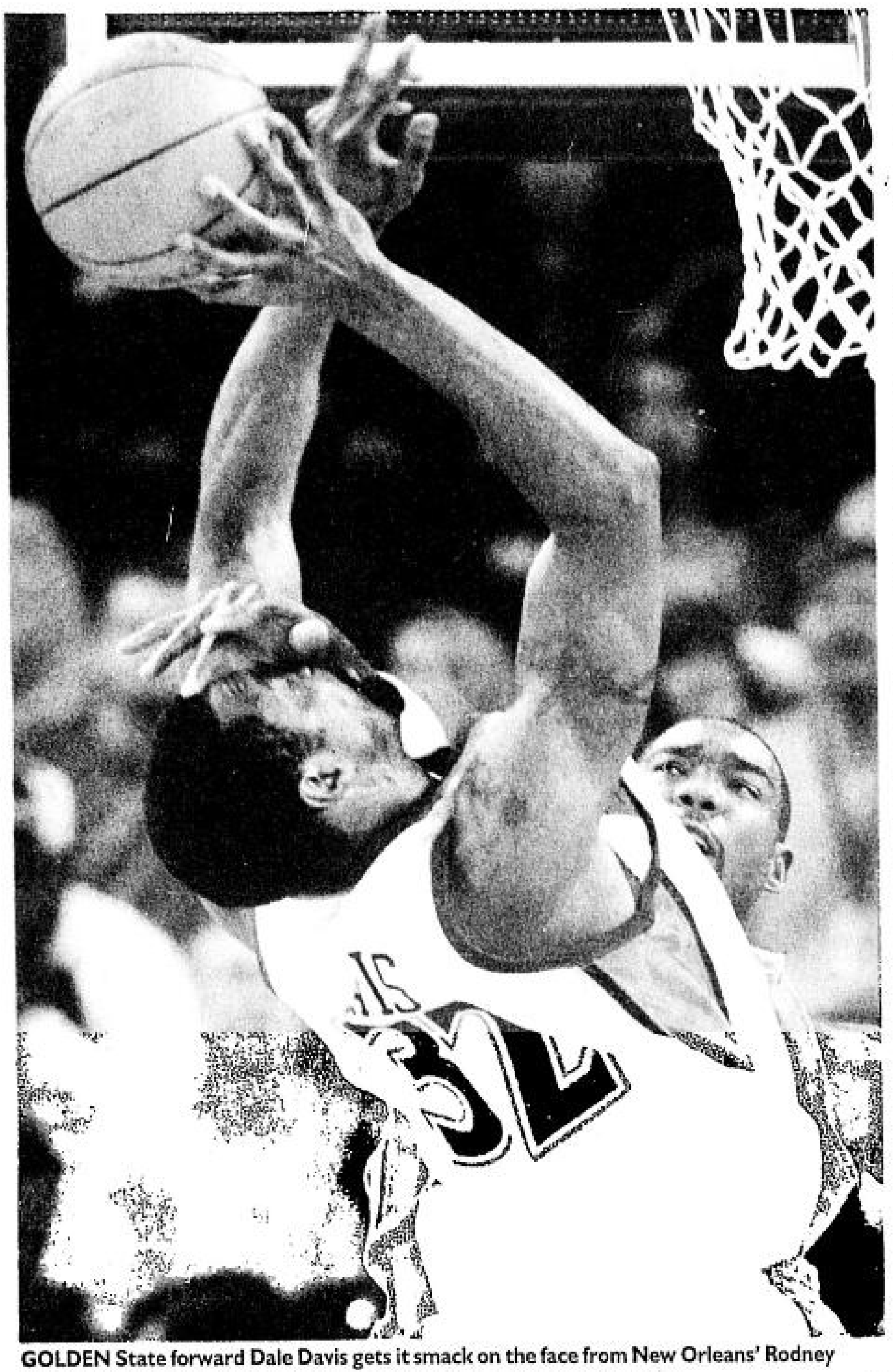
Fights on TV

TWO of the country's best fighters will be featured in television programs today. OPBF minimumweight king Rodel Mayol's Jan. 29 defense against Marty Polii in Parañaque, will be aired at 1-3 p.m. on Channel 9. From 3-4 p.m., WBO Asia Pacific bantam king Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista takes his turn as his Jan. 29 bout against South African Vuyisile Bebe airs on ABC-5's Ringside TV.

Pag bumenta ba, da best na?
Probably. But then critics at the CAR OF THE YEAR beg to differ



Pacers, Warriors score



GOLDEN State forward Dale Davis gets it smack on the face from New Orleans' Rodney Rodgers. Davis drew consolation from his team finally ending a drought. AP

Put end to identical 6-game losing skids

INDIANAPOLIS—Jermaine O'Neal scored 23 points and Anthony Johnson added a season-high 21, including two freethrows with 4.6 seconds left, to help the Indiana Pacers snap a six-game losing streak with a 95-94 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Friday.

The two freethrows by Johnson, who did not miss a shot from the field, gave Indiana a 95-92 lead, and he intentionally fouled Dirk Nowitzki to avoid the possibility of a tying 3-pointer. Nowitzki made the first freethrow, then accidentally banked the second one in after trying to miss in hopes of a rebound.

"I think we were just playing with a high energy level, playing with a sense of urgency," said Johnson. "We lost six in a row, and it was time for us to step up and show what we are made of."

In Toronto, Jalen Rose had 26 points, Rafer Alston scored all 16 of his points in the second half and the Raptors overcame a 22-point deficit to beat Washington, 103-100, and match the biggest comeback in franchise history.

In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson had 22 points and 12 assists, and Kyle Korver made five 3-pointers and scored 17 points to lead the 76ers over Atlanta, 103-85.

Korver hit four 3-pointers in the third quarter then another early in the fourth after the Hawks pulled within single digits.

In Boston, Raef LaFrentz scored seven of his 19 points in a 20-4 fourth-quarter run to help the Celtics improve to 3-0 against Orlando this season after a 112-100 rout.

Paul Pierce scored 18 points on a 5-for-16 shooting night.

In Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 32 points, including the go-ahead basket with 15 seconds left, as the Bucks edged the Los Angeles Clippers, 92-90.

In Sacramento, California, Mike Bibby scored 15 of his career-high 40 points in the fourth quarter, and Matt Barnes made the go-ahead freethrow and two big defensive plays to lift the Kings over New York, 116-115.

Brad Miller had 35 points as the Kings came back from an 11-point deficit in the final 3½ minutes, scoring nine points in the final 48 seconds.

In Minneapolis, Tracy McGrady had 40 points, 13 rebounds and a clutch 3-pointer in overtime, and Yao Ming added 23 points and 14 rebounds to give the Rockets a 119-113 victory over Minnesota.

Sam Cassell had 24 points and 11 assists, but missed a potential game-winner for the Timberwolves at the end of the fourth quarter.

In Oakland, California, Derek Fisher and Mickael Pietrus combined for 10 points during a decisive fourth-quarter run as Golden State ended a six-game losing streak with a 90-82 win over New Orleans.

Jason Richardson had 25 points, five rebounds and three assists for the Warriors, Pietrus finished with 15 points and seven rebounds, and Fisher added 14 points.

In Portland, Oregon, Damon Stoudamire and rookie Sebastian Telfair each scored 23 points to lead the Blazers past expansion Charlotte, 101-89. *AP*

THE LETRAN defense gets to the net too late as the
Knights Diaz and Sanchez.

UST, La Sall

GAMES TODAY
(*Rizal Memorial Coliseum*)
1 p.m.—UST vs PSC
3 p.m.—La Salle vs Letran

UNLESS Philippine Sports Commission shows up with more staying power and Letran springs a big surprise, there's no stopping a University of Santo Tomas-La Salle rematch for the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball crown.

For the third straight time, the Lady Legends, composed of members of the 1993 SEA Games champion squad, lost steam when dragged into the full route by younger rivals, blowing a 2-1 set lead and a 7-5 advantage in the fifth set in the opener of their best-of-three semis series with the Ti-

gresses Thursday
23-25, 24-26, 25-
The Legends'
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1 p.m. today at th
The first finals
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form have netted
victories, includ
(25-20, 25-17, 25
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"I'm hoping ba
up on us," said
Ramil de Jesus,
bid for a 13th
against the Lady
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The lady Arch

SPORTSWATCH

GCAP derby slated

THE THIRD edition of Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 7-Cock Derby series, which steadily draws a huge following, is all set Feb. 7 and 9 at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum. The two-day event will be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite Free. Submission of entries is scheduled today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. The 3-cock elimination round sizzles at 6 p.m. tomorrow, followed by the championship round on Wednesday. Veteran cocker Benjie Lim won the second GCAP 7-Cock Derby last Jan. 24 and 26 after his entry posted 6.5 points. Patrick Antonio, who founded the GCAP last year, announced that the first ever GCAP International 8-Cock Derby will be staged at Las Piñas Coliseum on June 6, 8 and 11.

Fistorama features bantamweight bouts

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features two bouts in the bantamweight division. Presiano Tabasa faces Phil Angcamor in four rounds. Danny Lagramonte squares off with Abe Concepcion. Both fights were at 118 lb and were held recently in Cagayan de Oro City. Samsung's Fistorama, with sportscaster Ed Picson and sports analyst Quinito Henson, is aired thrice weekly in the United States, Canada, Middle East, Europe, Australia, Saipan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Japan and other parts of the world through ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel. Samsung's Fistorama is aired at 4 p.m., Sundays on RPN 9, and is supported by Samsung, Tanduay Rhum, PCSO and Mapecon. The longest-running local golf show, Golf Power, featuring the final day of the just-concluded 8th Samsung International Junior Golf Championship precedes the boxing program at 3 p.m.

Marzo shares Candelaria crown

NEW World Slasher champ Boy Marzo registered six wins and a loss during the just-concluded 38th Annual Candelaria 7-Cock Derby hosted by Chito Tinsay to claim a share of the crown. Scoring seven wins out of seven matches each for a share of the crown were the Ilonggo entries Tisay Jet Toto, owned by the Taverna Brothers, and the entry of Atty. Polido & Dr. Polido. The event was backed by Thunderbird. Jezry Palmarez finished with 5.5 points while Sonny Lagon lost his last two fights for a 5-2 slate.

RACING TIPS
AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Full of Fury 2. Kim Possible 3. My Lucky Date 4. Windswept
Race 2--1. Victoria's Secret 2 Super Wind 3. My Rabbonnie
Race 3--1. Empire King 2. Earl Gray 3. Royal Lanlana/Coromell
Race 4--1. Race for Gold 2. Material Trick 3. Great Year 4. Epic Energy
Race 5--1. Full of Success 2. Ravishing Rally 3. Roase and Toy
Race 6--1. Mercurian 2. Pirouette 3. Sovereign Queen 4. Stradivarius
Race 7--1. Adam's Call/Marque 2. Winter's Fury 3. Palm It Off
Race 8--1. Gleaming Heart 2. Angel Eyes 3. Pitong Bakod/Royal Rose 4. Wild Orphan 5. Maximus
Race 9--1. Strong Rod 2. Jedi 3. D Joy of the Wild 4. Bridegroom
Race 10--1. Oliver Sun Joy 2. Batangas Force
Race 11--1. Magpakailanman 2. Wind Runner 3 Plaridel Hero 4. Silent Wind
Race 12--1. Nagmamahal 2. Words of Joy 3. Powerhouse 4. Golden Treasure
Race 13--1. Batang Cabu 2. Ahoy There 3. Bashful Lady 4. Titan 5. Silver Music 6. Fine Offer

Mercedes-Benz
roud to be a major sponsor of the
OLDEN TEE
Manila Golf, February 9-12, 2005.

GOLF SPONSOR: CATS Motors Inc. chair Gregorio T. Yu (right) and Manila Golf and Country Club president, Judge Cesar C. Cruz, sign the contract making CATS Motors, the general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in the Philippines, a major sponsor in MGCC's Golden Tee set Feb. 9-12. Two Mercedes-Benz C 180 Kompressors are the holes-in-one prizes in the tournament.

Davenport forges final duel vs Sha

DAVENPORT AFP

TOKYO—Top-ranked Lindsay Davenport booked a place in her seventh Pan Pacific Open final Saturday with a 6-1, 7-6 (2) win over Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Davenport, the tournament's defending champion, relied on a strong serve and solid groundstrokes at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium to overcome a tough second set and defeat the third-seeded Russian.

Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova will play Davenport in Sunday's final. The second-seeded Sharapova was a 6-1, 7-6 (3) winner over Japan's Shinobu Asagoe.

"I started off well and she made a few errors," said Davenport. "I was able to serve well in the second set. The surface here suits my game and I think that was the difference."

Davenport had seven aces on the indoor carpet. She was down 3-1 in the second set but broke Kuznetsova twice before winning in the tiebreaker.

"I didn't take advantage of my chances," said Kuznetsova. "I made too many errors and you can't play like that and expect to win against a player like Lindsay."

Davenport will be gunning for her fifth Pan Pacific title on Sunday but said she expects a tough match.

"On this surface if you can serve well and hold it puts a lot of pressure on your opponent," said Davenport. "I think she likes the fast surface as well so it won't be easy."

Like Davenport, Sharapova cruised through the first set before Asagoe came to life in the second.

"She really picked up her game in the second set," said Sharapova, who is fourth in the WTA rankings. "But fortunately, I was able to pick up the level. You've always got to put in a little extra effort when you're playing someone in their home country."

Sharapova won her first WTA title at the Japan Open in 2003.

"I'm very happy to be in the final," said Sharapova. "Lindsay's the No. 1 player in the world so it will be a tough match."

SHARAPOVA

Patriots star makes Pro Bowl roster

JACKSONVILLE, Florida—New England Patriots running back Corey Dillon has been named to the AFC team for the upcoming Pro Bowl, which takes place Feb. 13 in Honolulu.

Dillon replaces Indianapolis Colts running back Edgerrin James, who was removed from the roster due to a back injury.

The addition of Dillon gives New England six representatives in the Pro Bowl, as he joins quarterback Tom Brady, linebacker Tedy Bruschi, special teamer/linebacker Larry Izzo, defensive end Richard Seymour and kicker Adam Vinatieri.

The Washington product had previously earned Pro Bowl nods for three consecutive seasons from 1999-2001 with the Cincinnati Bengals. This past regular season, Dillon set the Pats' single-season record with a career-high 1,635 rushing yards and established a career best with 12 rushing touchdowns.

Dillon was acquired by the defending champions in April 2004 from Cincinnati in exchange for a 2004 second-round draft pick (FS Madieu Williams).

New England will meet the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday in Super Bowl XXXIX from ALLTEL Stadium.

Knighted former Beatles star Paul McCartney will perform in the Super Bowl halftime show. *Reuters*

IT WAS one of those days for Phil Mickleson, who couldn't seem to do anything wrong on the course. AP

Course reco Mickleson F

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona—Phil Mickelson took advantage of abating winds to equal the course record with an 11-under-par 60 in the second round of the FBR Open, birdieing the final five holes to finish one stroke shy of the US PGA Tour record held by Al Geiberger, Chip Beck and David Duval.

"It was a wonderful day," Mickelson said. "No complaints here."

Halfway through the 72-hole event, he shares the lead at 9-under 133 with 21-year-old Kevin Na, the youngest player on the PGA tour.

It was the lowest round ever for Mickelson in an official US PGA Tour event, bettering a third-round 61 in his 2001 Greater Hartford Open victory. He shot a 59 last Nov. 24 at the PGA Grand Slam. Mickelson tied the FBR Open—formerly the Phoenix Open—course record set by Grant Waite in 1996 and matched by Mark Calcavecchia in 2001.

Mickelson, seeking his 24th tour victory and first of 2005, had nine birdies and an eagle on the par-71, 7,216-yard Tournament Players Club course, where he won in 1996.

"I would have taken 65 and been ecstatic, because I would be 4 under

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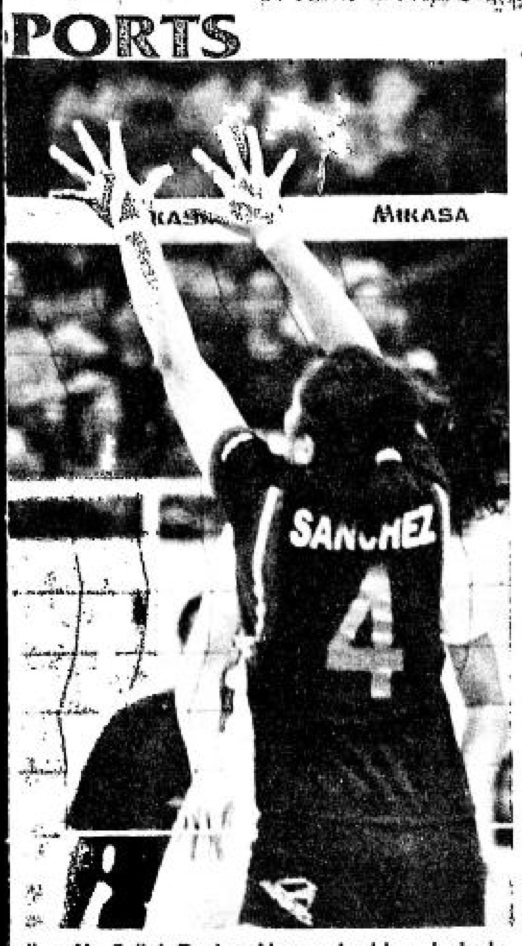

pike of La Salle's Desiree Hernandez blows by Lady

ERNIE U SARMIENTO

e seek finals

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eferring to their
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Knights at 3 p.m.
m.
s, reigning back-to-back UAAP champions, are playing rock-solid since dropping the opener to the Tigresses two months ago and are actually preparing this early for the tougher task ahead—the finals.

And they hope to meet the Tigresses in the championship again in what promises to be another classic duel between the country's top women's volleyball squads.

But that has to wait. La Salle must hurdle Letran while UST, which beat La Salle in four sets to capture the inaugural crown last year, should dispose of PSC.

Admission is free with the PSC-UST match to be telecast at 8 tonight over IBC-13. The La Salle-Letran duel will be aired tomorrow, also starting at 8 p.m.

rapova

AFP

rd gives BR lead

within four or five of the lead
to the weekend," said Mickel-
o used to live in Scottsdale.
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, because I love this tourna-

et to win on the PGA tour,
6-under 65 in the second
le, his father and his manager
injury in a car accident last
y, but his mother fractured a
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to watch her son play.
accident, Na said, "kind of
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that had disrupted play
y subsided, and the scores
accordingly.
ard Langer and Michael
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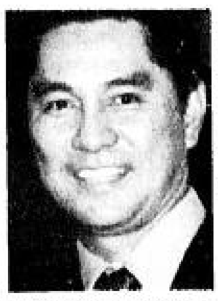
ace at 6-under 136, three
hind the leaders. Nine were
5 under. First-round leader
Hart shot a 73 and was at 2-
40.
ty-seven players made the
over 145. Among those who
as Justin Leonard, winner of
k's Bob Hope Chrysler Clas-
shot a 4-over 146.
lson had to finish his first
riday morning. He began by
a birdie putt on the par-4,
d 17th hole. AP

Esguerra leads Gintong Lahi nominees

By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

HERMIE Esguerra was recently cited as 2004's Horseowner of the Year by the Philippine Sportswriters Association. Will he also earn the nod of the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization?



ESGUERRA PDI PHOTO

Esguerra got two nominations, while five of his popular gallopers and one of his trainers are also in contention for the other major awards up for grabs during the prestigious Philtobo Gintong Lahi Awards Monday night (Feb. 7).

The popular sportsman-businessman was nominated as Horseowner of the Year and Breeder of the Year in the event being staged annually by the Philtobo in honor of the previous year's finest performers in local racing.

The affair will be held at at the Sky Lounge Plaza in Makati City, according to Philtobo president Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr.

Esguerra's rivals in the horseowners category are David Lee and the C&H Enterprises. The latter is also nominated as top breeder along with Leonardo "Sandy" Javier.

"It is an honor to be nominated again by the Philtobo," said Esguerra, whose powerhouse stable earned an amazing P42 million last year.

Real Spicy, Esguerra's highlyfancied colt tipped to figure prominently in this year's Triple Crown series, earned nominations as Horse of the Year and Champion 2-Year-Old Colt, while Lamborghini and Eye Candy will fight it out for the Champion 2-Year-Old Filly plum.

Two other Esguerra gallopers, PSA Cup and Sta. Lucia Cup winner Neat Laurel and Sampaguita Stakes winner Moab, were nominated in the Champion Import and Champion 3-Year-Old Filly categories, respectively.

Andrew Sanchez, one of the Esguerra Stable's chief thoroughbred conditioners, was nominated as Trainer of the Year, while Pat Dilema, the PSA's top rider for the fourth straight year, was also nominated as Jockey of the Year.

Along with Real Spicy, also nominated as Horse of the Year were Presidential Gold Cup champion Empire King, Classic Open winner West Bound and last year's top money-earning filly Cover Girl.

Neat Laurel will contend with All-Import champion Sexiest, Key Apo and Being There, while Moab's fellow nominees were Cover Girl and the Trillana Stable's Cool Runnings.

Mr. Sutter, Lamborghini's sire co-owned by Esguerra, Putch Puyat and Jose Ma. Franco, was nominated as top stallion along with Khozaam and Perfect Halo.

The complete list of nominees in the Gintong Lahi Awards:

HORSE OF THE YEAR—Cover Girl, Empire King, Real Spicy, West Bound

CHAMPION 2YO COLT—Smokin' Red, Real Spicy, Speed Majesty, Super Hero

CHAMPION 2YO FILLY—Lamborghini, Eye Candy

CHAMPION 3YO COLT—Don Paolo, Empire King, Speed O' War

CHAMPION 2YO FILLY—Moab, Cool Runnings, Cover Girl

OLDER FILLY/MARE—Dandansoy, Art of Rose, Material Maker

OLDER HORSE—Free Wind, West Bound, Red Star Rising, Success Story

CHAMPION IMPORT—Neat Laurel, Sexiest, Key Apo, Being There

CHAMPION SPRINTER—Arriba King

STALLION—Khozaam, Mr. Sutter, Perfect Halo

BROODMARE—Leveret, Gallant Native

OWNER OF THE YEAR—C&H Ent., David Lee, Hermie Esguerra

JOCKEY OF THE YEAR—Jonathan Hernandez, Pat Dilema, Jeffrey Ladiana

TRAINER OF THE YEAR—Antonio Alcasid Sr., Andrew Sanchez, Ernesto Roxas, Ruben Tupas

BREEDER OF THE YEAR—Hermie Esguerra, C&H Ent., Sandy Javier

Sea Games Cup slated; 2 favored

ADAM'S Call and Marque look formidable as a coupled bet.

But four other rivals are all set to give the Hermie Esguerra Stable entries a rough journey over one mile in the Southeast Asian Games Cup today at the Santa Ana Park.

Adam's Call, a 6-year-old dark bay horse sired by Lioubovnik out of Lexington Enquirer, is on a two-race winning roll following a three-month rest and is all set to gun for No. 3 under ace jockey Pat Dilema.

"*Mas matibay siya pag nauna agad kaya yun na siguro ang gagawin namin* (He's more solid when sent in front from the outset I think that will be our strategy," said Dilema, Esguerra's main stable jockey.

As a backup, Marque, a 4-year-old Australian import sired by Marquetry out of Double Copy, could give Adam's Call all the room he needed to score a victory or snare it by herself.

Veteran Manolito Daquis, a new acquisition to Team Esguerra, is guiding Marque, who is hoping to snap her three straight runnerup finishes.

The sponsoring Philippine Racing Commission under chair Jimmy Dilag has put P180,000 as winner's prize in the event held to support the Filipino athletes competing in the 2005 SEA Games, which the country is hosting this year. Second to fourth finishers will get P67,500, P37,500 and P15,000, respectively.

Winter's Fury, a 7-year-old bay mare by Aimaam out of Royal Success, is tagged as the biggest threat to Adam's Call and Marque.

In lieu of Dominador "Rapid Fire" Borbe Jr., apprentice jockey Edwin Orobio has been tapped to guide Winter's Fury, impressive victor in his last two Class Division outings. In her last run, Winter's Fury displayed legs of a 2-year-old in beating Marque by eight lengths.

The rest of the field—Silver Rose, Palm It Off and Sir Golden Score—are also tipped to give Esguerra's chargers a run for their money.

Among the participants, Silver Rose owns the best time of 1:40 flat over the 1,600-meter distance, a feat the 7-year-old bay mare registered when she ruled the Santa Ana Mile in July last year.

"*Huwag nilang papabayaan sa unahan ito at baka mabanderahang tapos sila* (Don't let them allow my horse to set the pace to her own liking because she might do it wire-to-wire)," said Jonathan Hernandez, who is riding Silver Rose.

Palm It Off, a big-finishing Aussie import, should be feared in the stretch, while Sir Golden Score is capable of distracting the pacesetters. *Edwin Villanueva, Contributor*

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1 SHALL WE DANCE	1 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13	1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT	5 RACING STRIPES	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT 12 25 3 10, 5 55, 8 40 11 25	1 ITS ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13	2 ELEKTRA	2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13	6 SHALL WE DANCE	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 SHALL WE DANCE 2 15, 4 30, 6 45, 9 00, 11 15	2 HAROLD & KUMAR
3 ELEKTRA	3 SHALL WE DANCE	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ELEKTRA 1 10 3 30 5 50, 8 10, 10 30	7 MEET THE FOCKERS	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MEET THE FOCKERS 1 30 4 00 6 30, 9 00, 11 30	3 ELEKTRA
4 RACING STRIPES	4 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT	4 WITHOUT A PADDLE		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 2 35, 4 45, 6 55, 9 05 11 15	4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 ELEKTRA 2 10 4 30 6 50 9 10, 11 30	5

GB1
GREENBELT 1

1	A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT 1 20, 4 05, 6 50,9 35
2	SHALL WE DANCE 12 45. 3 00, 5 15, 7 30, 9 45

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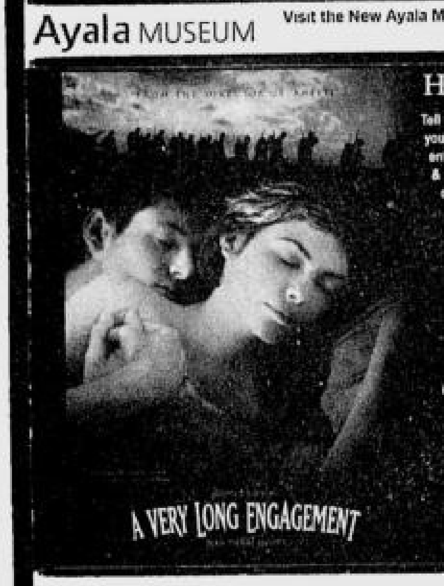

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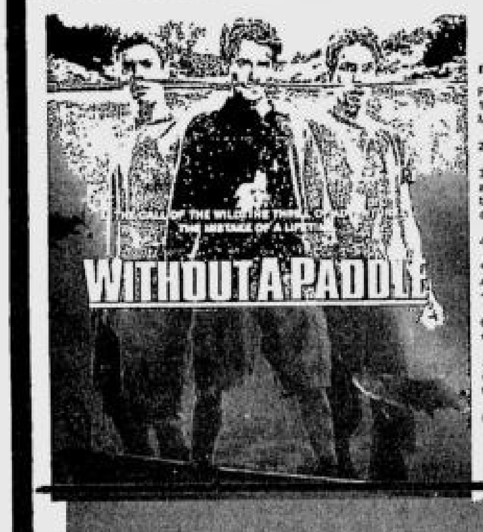
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1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT • THX
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 RACING STRIPES
10:50 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

4 WITHOUT A PADDLE
10:50 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

5 ELEKTRA
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 SHALL WE DANCE
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 BLADE TRINITY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 BATH HOUSE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 MEET THE FOCKERS
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

10 WHITE NOISE
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 SHALL WE DANCE
10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

2 RACING STRIPES
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 ELEKTRA
10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

4 RESERVE

5 MEET THE FOCKERS
10:20 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

7 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 ELEKTRA
11 00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
10 50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9 00

4 MEET THE FOCKERS
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

5 SHALL WE DANCE
12:30 3:00 5:30 8 00 10:30

6 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:20 10:30.

7 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30

8 RACING STRIPES
10:50 1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 ELEKTRA
10:40 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:25

2 RACING STRIPES
11:40 1:55 4:05 6:15 8:25

3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8.30

4 BLADE TRINITY
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 8:50

5 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
11.00 1.00 3:00 5.00 7.00 8:55

6 SHALL WE DANCE
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55

7 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
10:40 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:25

8 OCEAN'S TWELVE
12:30 3:00

PIONEER 687-5378

1 SHALL WE DANCE
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 RACING STRIPES
4 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 UNO
2 RESIDENT EVIL 2
3 NED KELLY
4 SYLVIA

CAINTA 240-4661

1 ELEKTRA
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 RACING STRIPES
4 SHALL WE DANCE

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5 MEET THE FOCKERS

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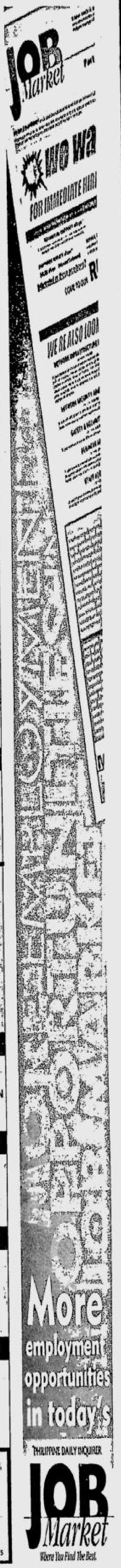

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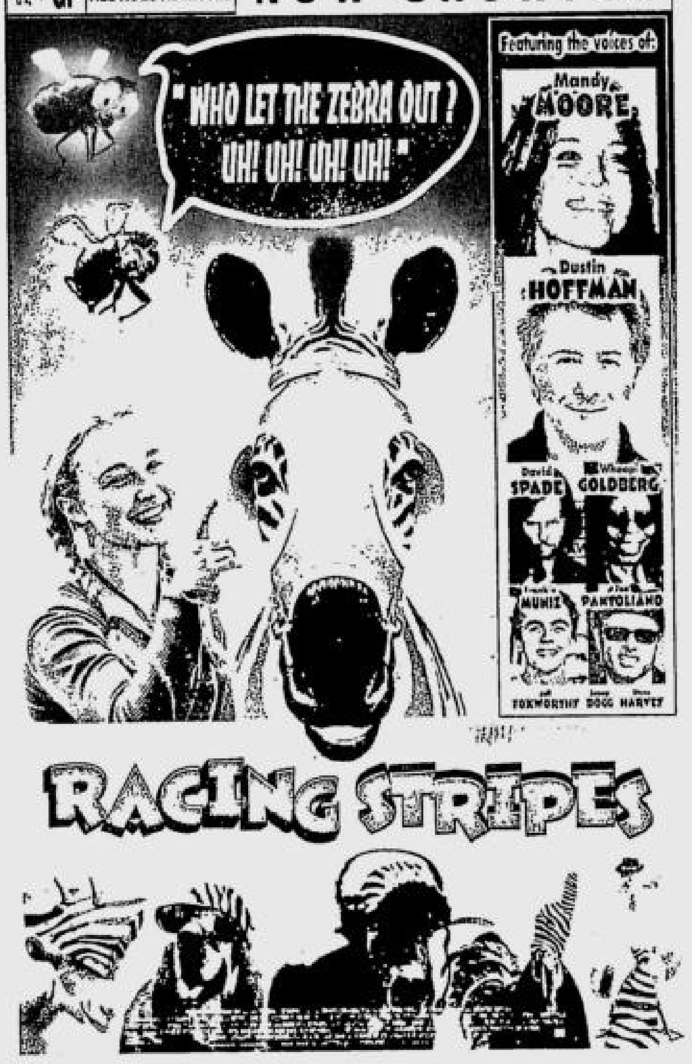
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Super excited na akong panoorin ang Dreamboy!
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- Kris Aquino

Kung Dreamboy si Piolo, Dreamgirl ko naman si Bea!
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– Roderick Paulate

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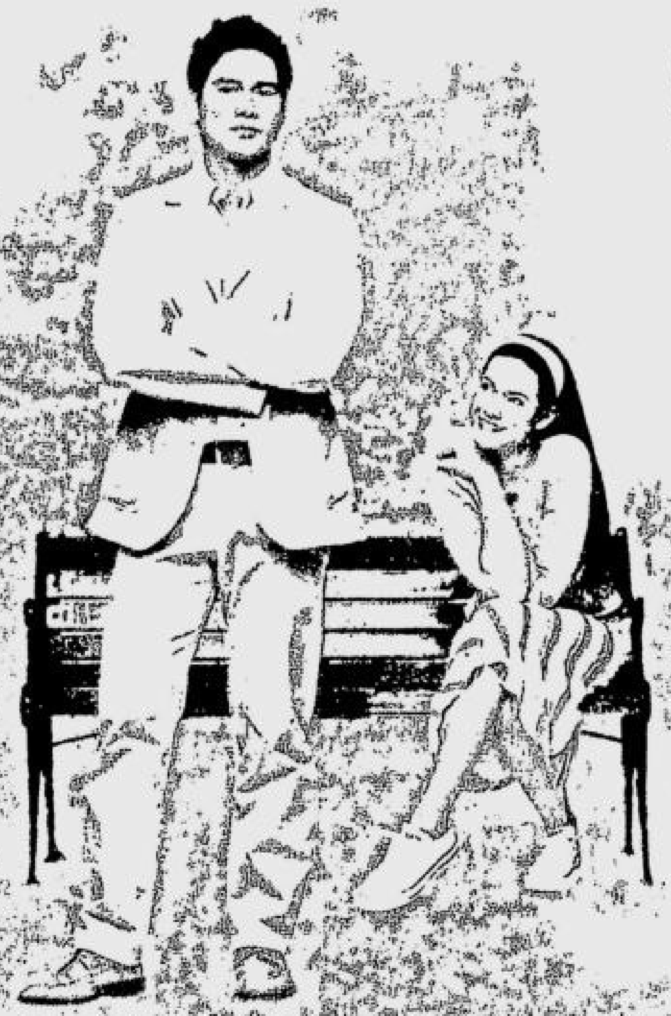
Mga DREAMBOYS na katulad ko, let's do it! It's a date!
– Bayani Agbayani

Siguradong napakaganda at kikiligin kayo!
– Jericho Rosales



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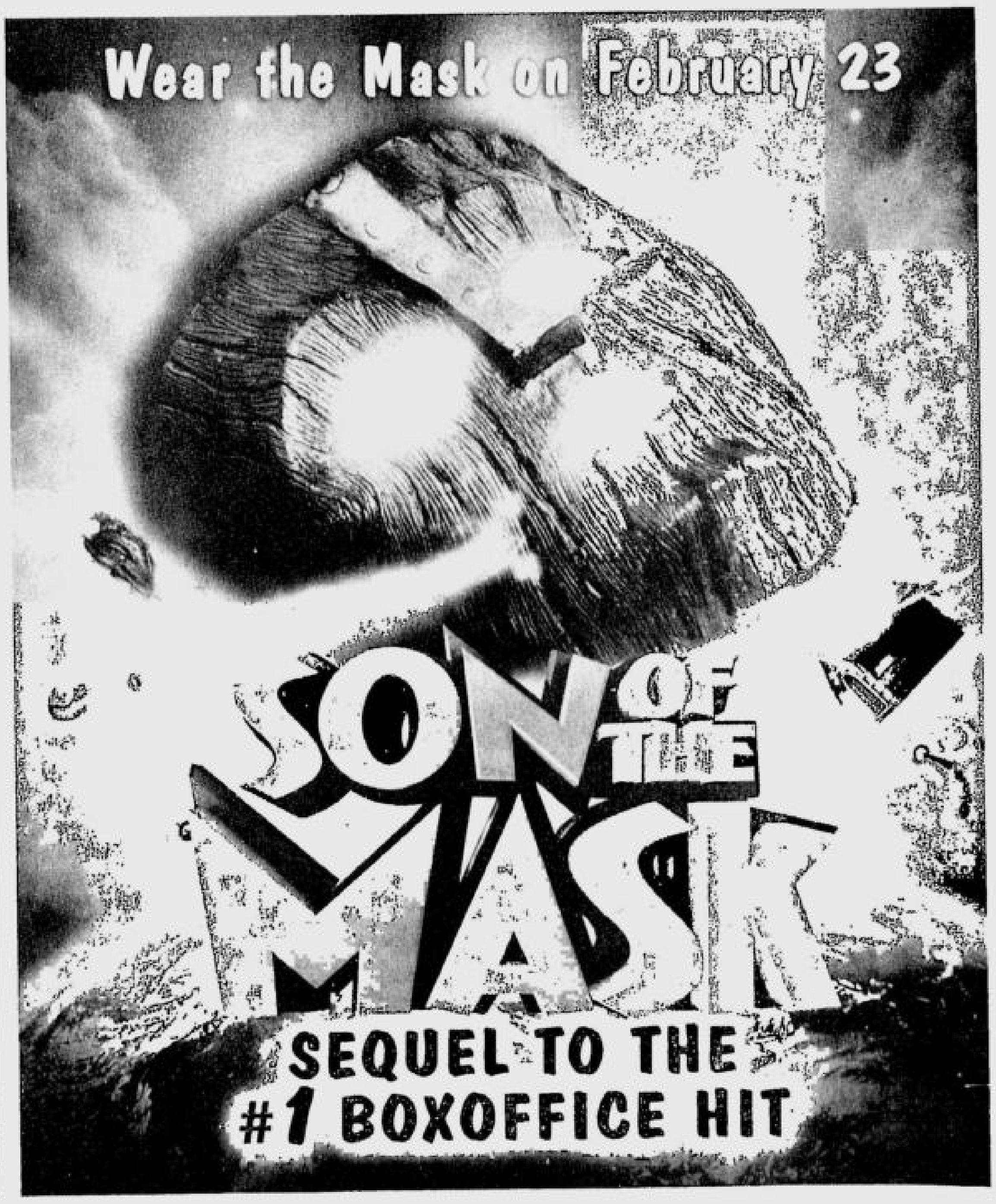
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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

PSC needs P70M more for venues

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE SCRAMBLING preparations to host the Southeast Asian Games in November hit another snag when the Philippine Sports Commission was allocated only P30 million to refurbish the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Improvement of the facilities at the Rizal complex was estimated at no less than P100 million with repairs on the track and field stadium taking up about P80 million due to the need to install a giant electronic board vital to the event.

According to sources, the old electronic board has not been functioning for years. It was last used in the Asian championships in 1993. When the country again hosted the Asian meet two years ago, the host just settled for manual timing.

The track stadium can do with more seats while roofing is needed in the stands across the grandstand. But the track surface, last renovated in 1993, is still up to the Games' standards.

Some P15 million is needed to refurbish the Ninoy Aquino Stadium, site of the gymnastics event, while P5 million will be spent at the Tennis Center for lighting and additional room for the gallery, according to the sources.

Also scheduled for repairs are the baseball park, which will host the baseball and softball events, as well as the Rizal Multi-Purpose Hall, which will serve as venue for wrestling.

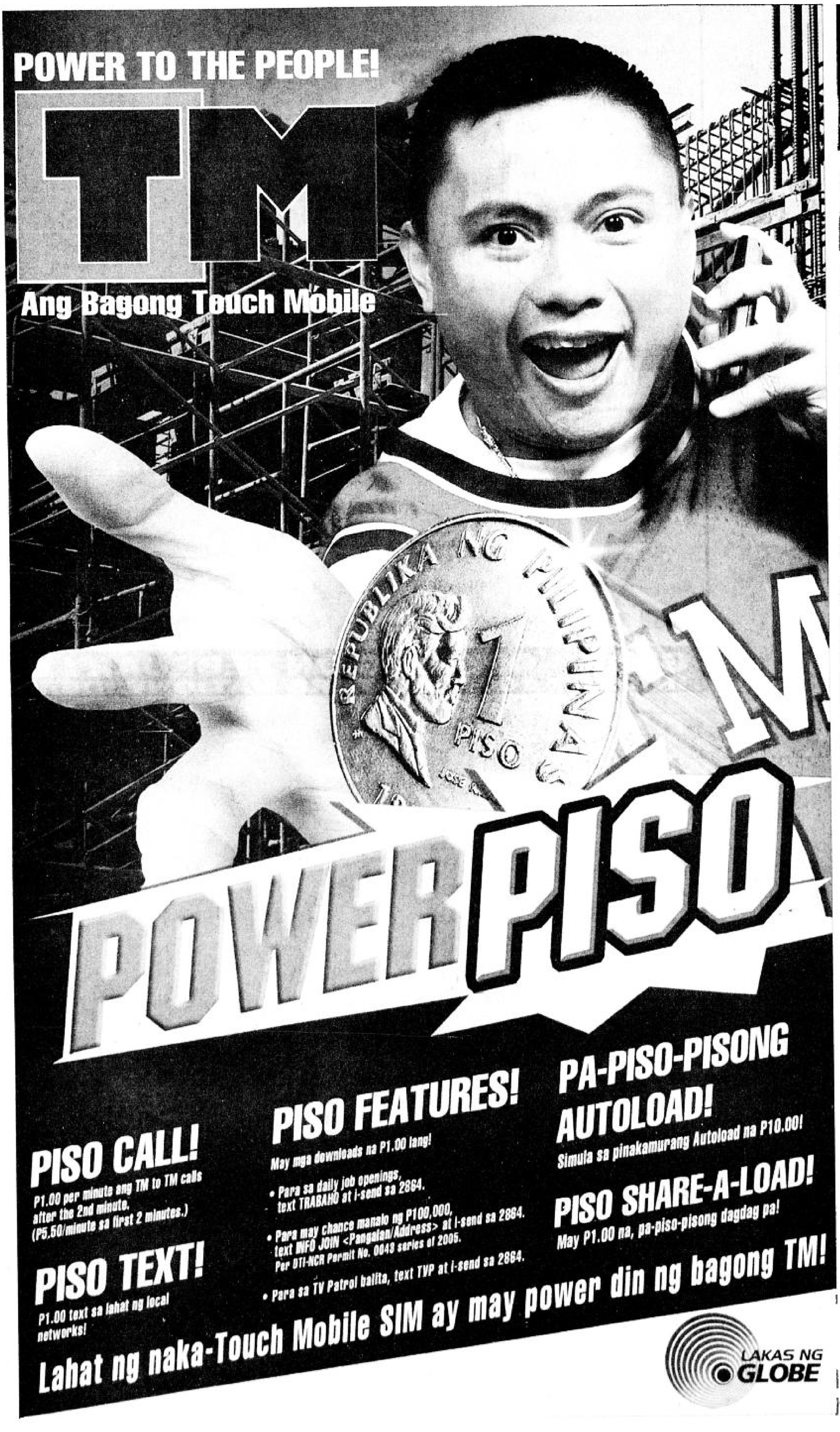
Although the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee earlier said it would allocate P209 million for venue rehabilitation, the money has yet to be raised as Philsoc is still finalizing its marketing plan.

So far, all the country has is the P30 million given by Congress, which was part of the P104-million budget of the PSC for the year.

With or without the budget from the Philsoc, though, sources said the facilities inside the RMSC would undergo repairs that suit the budget because time is running out on the Games slated for Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

"We can probably put fresh paint and repair damaged seats here and there and maintain cleanliness, but we won't pretend that we have money because we don't," said a PSC official who refused to be named.

Another PSC-managed venue that needs to be upgraded is the Philsports, which will host table tennis and badminton.



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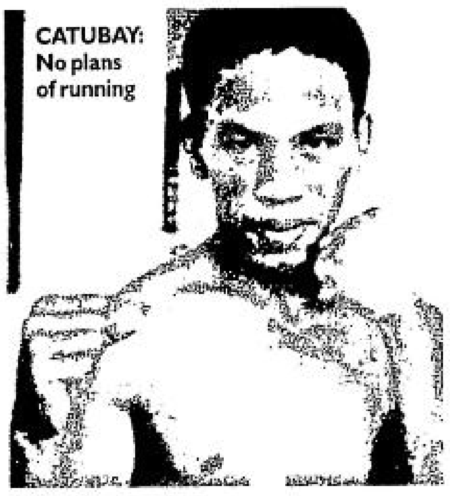
CATUBAY: No plans of running

Catubay seeks crown tonight

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

REIGNING Philippine flyweight champ Federico Catubay of SGG Stable vies for the vacant Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) flyweight diadem against Australia-based Lebanese Hussein Hussein today at the Panthers World of Entertainment in Penrith, NSW, Australia.

Catubay, being managed by Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani, had earlier expressed confidence he will bring home the crown at the expense of the sneaky Hussein.

In an interview last Feb. 2, prior to boarding a flight bound for Sydney, Catubay had said he will not give any chance for Hussein to find his range.

The 24-year-old Catubay is coming off big wins over ex-WBC junior fly king Yosam Choi and Mongolian Yura Dima.

"I am going to Australia to fight, and I hope Hussein will not run too much. The fans want a real fight, not a track-and-field meet," Catubay said in Cebuano in a previous interview at the ALA Gym, where he trains alongside WBO Asia Pacific champ Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista, Z "The Dream" Gorres, OPBF champs Randy Suico and Rev Santillan, and other Cebu stars like Yukka Gejon, and WBF king Dindo Castañares.

To prepare for Hussein, Catubay sparred against the likes of ALA Boys Rocky Fuentes, Rollen del Castillo and Donnie Nietes, Clif Sman protege Robert Allanic, as well as upstarts Isidro Balabat and Arnel Tadena.

Gello-ani had expressed confidence the judges and referee will render a fair decision for the fight.

Catubay, however, will find tough opposition against Hussein, a rangy and fast-moving fighter who is trained by his brother, Billy Hussein, and the legendary Jeff Fenech.

The 29-year-old Hussein's only loss was at the hands of WBC flyweight king Pongsaklek Wongjongkam in late 2003. He totes a 26-1 record with 20 KOs.

Sta. Rosa, Paete host cage elims

A TOTAL of 20 teams from three divisions see action when the 2nd Southern Tagalog Students Basketball Championship gets underway on Feb. 13-20 in Paete and Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

According to Region IV director Johnny Tam, the event serves as the pre-qualifying tournament for Region IV for the 59th National Students Basketball Championship set in Negros Oriental, Feb. 27-March 5.

Tam, also the RP Youth team coach, is being assisted by Ding Andres, regional commissioner.

Defending champion Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation of Quezon province heads the senior roster. Also entered are University of Perpetual Help Jonelta System, San Pedro College of Business Administration, Cavite State University, Philippine Cambridge School (Cavite), University of Rizal System, Divine Word College (Oriental Mindoro) and University of Batangas.

Seeing action in the juniors side are University of Perpetual Help Jonelta System (Biñan), Canossa School of Santa Rosa, Queen Anne School, Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation (Quezon), Mary Hill Academy (Quezon), St. Francis of Assisi College (Cavite), Saint Bridget College (Batangas City), Lemnahis National High School (Oriental Mindoro) and Angono National High School (Rizal).

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Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Superstar

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

LOS ANGELES—Andrew Lloyd Webber has such a legendary reputation for spectacular, effects-driven musicals that we almost expect his arrival for an interview this afternoon to be announced by a loud orchestra overture. Or perhaps a crashing chandelier.

Instead, we encounter a soft-spoken figure. This slight guy in a jacket and blue checkered shirt is the Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber whose "The Phantom of the Opera" has been staged in over 100 cities in 17 countries and earned an estimated $3.3 billion?

Webber's status as a musical theater giant had fazed the movie actor, Gerald Butler, when he had to sing "The Music of the Night" to cinch the Phantom role for the play's movie version. Wearing a cotton shirt that at first looked like a *barong*, Butler, whom we spoke with earlier, revealed his moment of terror while he sang the tune made famous by Michael Crawford as the original Phantom in the stage version.

The handsome Butler (Webber calls him "Gerry") recounted, in his distinct Scottish accent: "I was not nervous because I didn't feel it was an audition. Joel (Schumacher, director of the movie) had already said, 'I want you to be my Phantom. Let's just see if you can sing.' [But] the nerves that I should have felt over the past month hit me in that single instant. I suddenly realized that Andrew Lloyd Webber, one of the greatest composers of all time, was sitting in the room and I'm singing one of the most famous songs of all time—made famous by somebody who was not me."

LIKE A KID, Lloyd Webber (right) often asks director Joel Schumacher, 'What are you doing?'

He felt like an imposter, Butler said, laughing. "My legs started shaking and I couldn't stop. Simon [Lee, musical supervisor] started playing, and he was telling me to breathe but I thought he was having a heart attack. Andrew is at the back of the room going [the actor does an exasperated Webber, hands on face]. It was bizarre."

On the other hand, Patrick Wilson, a Broadway veteran ("The Full Monty," "Oklahoma," "Miss Saigon") who plays Raoul, the nobleman competing against the Phantom for the young singer Christine's (Emmy Rossum) affections, did not feel so nervous around Webber.

"He was like a kid," Wilson said. He is a musical genius but a filmmaker he is not. It was wonderful to see him just sit next to Joel and ask, 'What are you doing?' He was really interested."

Webber does seem a bit shy even, but once the interview begins, he is verbose, nearly breathless. Knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1994, Webber, 56, is divorced from Sarah Brightman, for whom he wrote the Christine role. In 1991, he married Madeleine Astrid Gurdon, with whom he now has three young children. He has two older children from his first marriage to Sarah Hugill.

Below are excerpts of our interview with Sir Andrew:

Is "The Phantom of the Opera" your most personal or favorite work?

"The Phantom" has been so successful in a way that I know will never happen again in my career. It's extraordinary. People always do say it must be the most personal because Sarah Brightman was in the show and so forth, but the truth is that obviously, it's got to [be] very special because of what it's done. I've written 14 musicals and I would hate to say that anyone of them is my favorite because they're all my children in a way.

How did you go about casting the main roles for the movie, especially considering that Michael Crawford and Sarah Brightman have many fans clamoring for them to reprise their stage roles onscreen?

When Joel said that he would direct it, he was very determined that the cast should be young people and that we should start from the fact that our Christine should be of the age that was originally written in the book. We realized that it would be very hard to find a girl in the theatre who could sing that "big sing." Christine is 16, which Emmy Rossum was at the time we began.

The big stipulation that I made was that the leads have got to really be able to sing. Joel has been for a long time keen on Gerry Butler. Gerry came to my house and sang for me at my house. He sang "The Music of the Night" and I had with me Simon Lee, our musical supervisor. We heard Gerry sing and there was no question he had all the notes. He was wonderful for us because he had this kind of rough rock edge to his voice that made him the voice of danger, as opposed to Patrick's wonderful lyric tenor. I put Gerry together with Simon. I said to Simon, "Do you think you could deliver this?" That was because we knew he got all the notes but he obviously wasn't a professional singer. Simon said, "Absolutely." So that's how that happened.

Emmy came to us at the last minute. We had about half-a-dozen girls we were going to use. I saw a screen test of her, where she was singing "Think of Me."

SIR ANDREW/ A2-2

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Promo Period is from Jan. 6 - Mar. 31, 2005 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3493, Series of 2004

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Superstar

From page A2-1

INTIMIDATED. Actor Gerard Butler, who plays the Phantom, "suddenly realized that Andrew Lloyd Webber, one of the greatest composers of all time, was sitting in the room and I'm singing one of the most famous songs of all time."

"'THE PHANTOM' has been so successful in a way that I know will never happen again in my career," says the composer.

She sounded great to me. She also sang for me in person. I thought it was a very young voice and again, I said to Simon, "Do you think we could bring this through?" And he said, "Absolutely."

Aside from Michael Crawford, there were other big names, including Antonio Banderas, reported to be up for the Phantom role. Did you seriously consider Banderas at any point?

Yes, there were a lot of actors interested in the role. I knew Antonio because I had met him in the course of shooting "Evita." We did discuss it, but at the time there was no plan to make the film. A lot of names was attached to the role and they certainly were not coming from me. I didn't feel the time was right to start moving in on "The Phantom" until about three or four years ago.

Can we expect more movie adaptations of your musicals? And what are you planning to do next?

If "The Phantom" is just a little successful, that makes it much easier for the next one. For example, Paramount owns the fundamental rights to "Sunset Boulevard" because it was originally a Billy Wilder movie. I spoke to Sherry (Lansing, Paramount head) this morning and it's very clear that they are interested. "Cats" is owned by Universal. It was sold years ago and there is, in fact, a Tom Stoppard screenplay of "Cats" which I was very happy with. I'd love to get the movie done.

As for a new subject, I haven't found anything at the moment that I particularly want to do. [Although] there's something that recently came my way. It's an extraordinary [collection] of poems written in the Warsaw ghetto. It was buried for ages and has just been found. The widow of my old manager found it and sent it to me. They touched something of the nerve that touched me when I wrote "Requiem." When I get free from all of this, I am going to seriously look at those [poems].

If you could re-work "Evita," what would you change about it?

I'd change the orchestration, because when I wrote it in 1976, there was very little appreciation of Latin American music in Britain. Yes, we were aware of the tangos in Argentina but there was nothing like the knowledge and availability of Latin music that there is today. There is going to be a new production of "Evita" in London and I don't know whether I could do it next year. There's a plan to do it with Cameron Macintosh. I'm intrigued that you asked this question because it's the only one of my scores that I really do think to rescore, with an understanding of what I now know about it. Not change the songs or anything, but actually to reorchestrate. It would be a very good thing to do, but I wish that it happened in the film.

Were you not happy with the film version of "Evita"?

The music was mixed at the same level, so it was hurled at you all the time. It was very loud; there was not much light and shade. It's something that Joel and I have been very [conscious of avoiding] in "The Phantom." I think that if only the "Evita" score had been mixed a little bit more sensitively —and that would have been an easy thing to do—the movie would have been much stronger. I am talking from a musical point of view, because many of the things that Alan Parker did in it, he did very well, especially visually.

"Evita" was written in 1976 and in those days, I was managed by Robert Stigwood so its movie rights, along with the rights to "Jesus Christ Superstar," were sold early on. That's why I wasn't very much involved with it ["Evita" film version].

"The Passion of the Christ" sparked such a huge controversy. What was your own experience like when you created "Jesus Christ Superstar"?

I've never been frightened about taking on subjects that some people might not like. But this feels like deja vu. It was in Los Angeles that I did my very first press conference and that was for "Jesus Christ Superstar." Tim Rice and I were confronted by everybody asking why we had done it. It was very much Tim's idea to write something from Judas Iscariot's point of view. He picked up on the line of Bob Dylan: Did Judas Iscariot have God on his side?

Tim's take was that you had this highly intelligent, probably the one rational disciple... and that's why Judas Iscariot came to do what he did, and of course in the end he committed suicide. That was very much where Tim started from. If you listen to "Superstar" today, the very first lines are Judas saying, "My mind is clearer now, at last I can see where we are," and that was the thought.

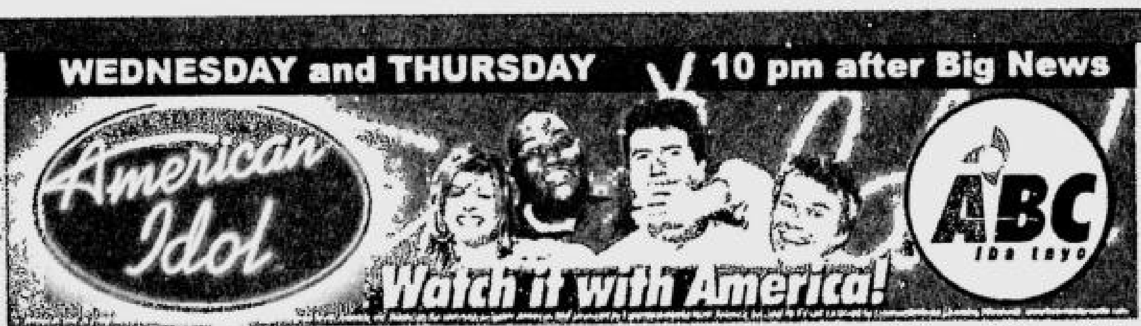
Was it a controversial time for you?

It was very strange for us because it

SIR ANDREW/ A2-7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Sunday, February 6, 2005



WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY 10 pm after Big News

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2		SCQ Reload		The Buzz					Rated K		TV Patrol			ABS-CBN Comedy Original			Kaya Mo Ba 'To		
NBN		Value Vision		Kabataan News Network	Family Rosary Crusade	Concert at the Park		Kamao		Family Rosary Crusade	The Working President	Battle Of Royale		To Be Announced					Unlimited Diving
ABC 5		Ringside		PBA										Viva Cine Idols				ABC Onstage	
GMA 7	Gigstars	Love To Love			S-Files				Nikki	Mel & Joey Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office				
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		Road Trip	Simple Life	Smackdown		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami						The Working President	Ugnayan
IBC 13		MMTLBA		MMTLBA		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		V League				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
Solar	Tough Enough	WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown				WWE Velocity		WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		Pride FC				Slamball	
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Tao Shu The Warrior Boy	Lat, The Kampung Boy	The Adventures Of Tenali Raman	Yakkity Yak	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Hit Chart				Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Dateline		Saturday Night Live		Fame		NBC Nightly News	What I Like About You	The O.C		Girls Behaving Badly	Simple Life 2	Who Wants To Marry My Dad		Nip Tuck		Dateline	
Cinema One				Minsan Ko Lang Sasabihin				Trip				Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon				Diskarte			
Studio 23								Nginig The Hidden Files				Two & A Half Men	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	F.	Digital Tour (10:15PM)	The Bachelor		
AXN		No One Can Hear You				Global Adventure		Now See This	Now See This	The Amazing Race		Fear Factor		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		David Blaine Street Magic		The Amazing Race	
Star World		The Apprentice				Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Road Trip		The Simpsons	The Kumars At No. 42	Oprah Prime Time		The X-Files/ Parkinson		Enterprise		The Simpsons	Oprah Prime Time
CNN	Design 360	World News	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart: Global Edition	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	CNN Reports Highlights of MTV "Asia Aid Concert"			People In The News	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart: Global Edition	Global Challenges	Inside The Middle East	Talk Asia	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Innovation		Samsung Best Of The Week		Wild Horizons	Wild Orphans	Built For The Kill		Killer Leopards				Build For The Kill		Interpol Investigates		Samsung Best Of The Week	
Solar Sports	TV Shopping		Boxing Klitschko vs Williams (edited)				NBA Game Orlando @ Cleveland					NBA Jam L911	NBA TV Daily	NBA Game Detroit @ New Jersey					NBA Inside Stuff
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America W/ Mario Batali	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		Alias				Planet Parent	You're Invited
HBO					Enough (4:40PM)				Spirit: Stallion Of The Cimarron			Indiana Jones And The Temple Of Doom				Minority Report (9:55PM)			
Star Movies		Starship Troopers (3:15PM)					The First 20 Million Is Always The Hardest				She's The One (7:20PM)			Down With Love			Barb Wire (10:45PM)		
Cartoon Network	What's New Scooby Doo?	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Swat Kats	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Atomic Betty	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Megas XLR	What's New Scooby Doo?	The Looney Tunes Show		Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Wild Force	Zoids: Fuzors	Time Squad	Samurai Jack	Justice League
ESPN				Atlantic Coast Conf. Duke vs. Wake Forest				Atlantic Coast Conf. Nc State vs. North Carolina				Big East Conf. Pittsburgh vs West Virginia				Pool/Snooker Mosconi Cup '04		2004 BCA Open 9-ball Champs NV USA Finals	
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina's Secret Life	The Legend Of Tarzan	Wicked Science	Viva S Club	Martin Mystery/ That's So Raven/ Dave The Barbarian/Phil Of The Future				Lizzie Mcguire	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax		Gunfighter's Moon			Cop & 1/2 (4:45PM)				White Rush			Empire Of The Sun					The Godfather		
Hallmark Channel		Back When We Were Grown Ups				Henry VIII				Henry VIII - Part 2				Loves Enduring Promise	Dynasty: Behind The Sex, Greed And Manipulation				
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Monster Garage		Rides		Extreme Engineering		Hour Asia				Discovery Sunday				Power Zone	
MTV Philippines	Asia Aid: The Road To BKK	Non-Stop Hits		MTV Brand New	Wildboyz	The Assistant	MTV Jams	Non-Stop Hits		Room Raiders	Punk'D	MTV Harana	Newlyweds	MTV Ask Simple Plan	Pimp My Ride	2005 MTV Asia Awards		VH1 TV Moments: Elton John	
Sports Plus			1986 AFC C'ship: Broncos vs. Browns			NFL Gameday	Inside the PGA	World Poker Tour ep 4 Costa Rica				Italian Serie A		Get A Grip		FBR Open Day3			
EWTN	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Angelus (3:15PM)	Pope Pius XII	Children's Rosary	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Octavio Diaz	EWTN Bookmark	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	EWTN Global Showcase		The Way To Follow Jesus	St. Matthew	Sunday Mass			Life Is Worth Living	Mother Angelica Live Classics	

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Reality check

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE WERE among the first to report that former Smokey Mountain vocalist **Sharon (Zar) Galvez** had made the cut in the 2005 edition of "American Idol," and is going to Hollywood for the next elimination stages of the popular TV talent search. But we're befuddled by the prematurely giddy reaction that the news has elicited.

Sharon's relatives here have been featured on TV so often that they've become "reflected-glory celebrities" in their own right. And even Malacañang has weighed into the matter, sounding like Sharon has practically won the singing tilt.

Time for a reality check, everyone: Sharon had an impressive audition, but watching the show's city-by-city audition process, it looks like some 100 "better bets" shall have been invited to go to Hollywood, by the time the search gets to that phase in a couple of weeks.

So, it's much too early to celebrate "our" bet's "victory"! And second-guessing the outcome is rendered even more difficult by the fact that the tilt's TV coverage has been concentrating on its worst auditions.

So, we haven't been able to hear many of the other successful auditionees, and we therefore can't evaluate her chances of making it in relation to those of other "better bets."

Since that's the situation that we find ourselves in, the realistic thing to do is to hold our horses, firmly sit on our runaway expectations, and just patiently albeit hopefully see the elimination process through.

The way we understand it, all of the singers invited to go to Hollywood will sequentially be whittled down to a group of 32, from which the 12 finalists will be determined.

So, like the other Hollywood-bound talents, Sharon has three more major tests to hurdle before she can get to the finalist level in which Fil-Ams **Jasmine Trias** and **Camile Velasco** found themselves last year.

Premature celebrations will only make our "national" disappointment more painful, should our new Fil-Am bet fail to make it to final 12.

So, keep those fingers crossed and continue praying—but don't uncork the champagne bottle just yet—and, cool it!

Which is not to say that Sharon doesn't have a good chance of "surviving" the show's ongoing elimination process. Of the good auditionees we have heard on the program to date, she's among the standouts. But, the others whose voices the show has inscrutably kept from us thus far could be even better.

Well, even if Sharon doesn't go the distance, there could be other Hollywood-bound Fil-Am talents out there, especially after the auditions get to San Francisco, and Jasmine and Camile's hometown, Honolulu. Here's hoping!

'3PO' at Ateneo

TANGHALANG Ateneo's current production, "3PO," is a Filipino adaptation in English of **Bertolt Brecht**'s masterpiece, "The Threepenny Opera," written and directed by **Yan Yrastorza Yuson** with the assistance of **Jonathan Cuizon**, and songs by Yan and his brother **Yael**.

The play with songs is set in a capitalist society where an underworld of thieves, beggars and streetwalkers is its metaphor. A criminal, MacHeath, is thrown into jail when he marries Polly Peachum despite the objections of her influential parents.

He seduces the warden's daughter, escapes, is rearrested, convicted and sentenced to death—only to be pardoned by a special order and elevated to high political office.

So, is society run by thieves who use deceit to make it to the top? Performances run weekends until Feb. 19. Call 426-6001 or 0917-2055943.

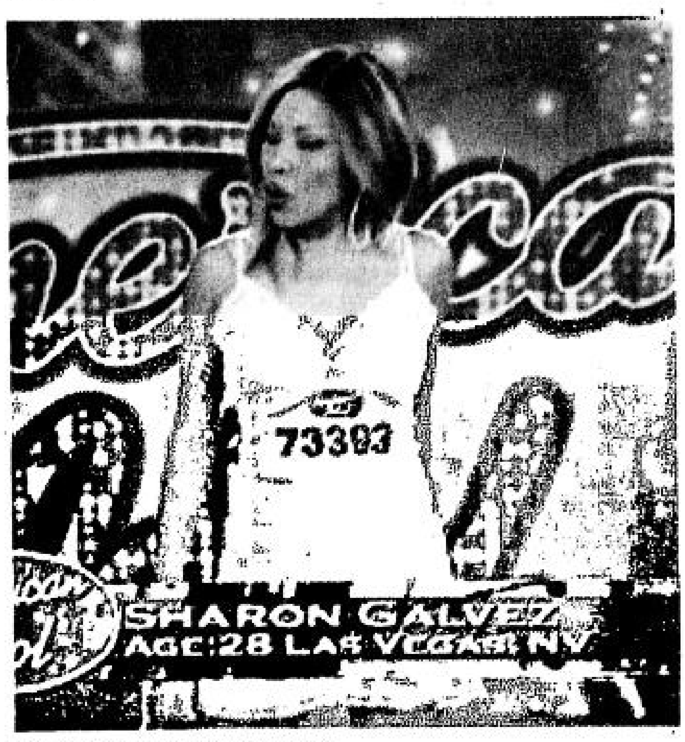
Phil-Japan Friendship

WITH THE visit of three female artists from Japan under the auspices of the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television, Reed Foundation-Japan and the Soka Gakkai International, Tagaytay and Davao will have their share of festivities during this Philippine-Japan Friendship Month.

In the afternoon of Feb. 9 at the Ateneo Grade School in Davao, **Yuri Fukunaga**, **Masako Sakai** and **Fusako Sasaki** will stage a mini-exhibit of their works.

They will also stage a reader's theater rendition of "How the Crane Repaid a Farmer's Kindness," share their expertise in papercraft through a demo-workshop, and screen **Daisaku Ikeda**'s anime, "Kanta and the Deer." Guest exhibitors are parchment artists **Julie Roces** and **Stanley Hurt**.

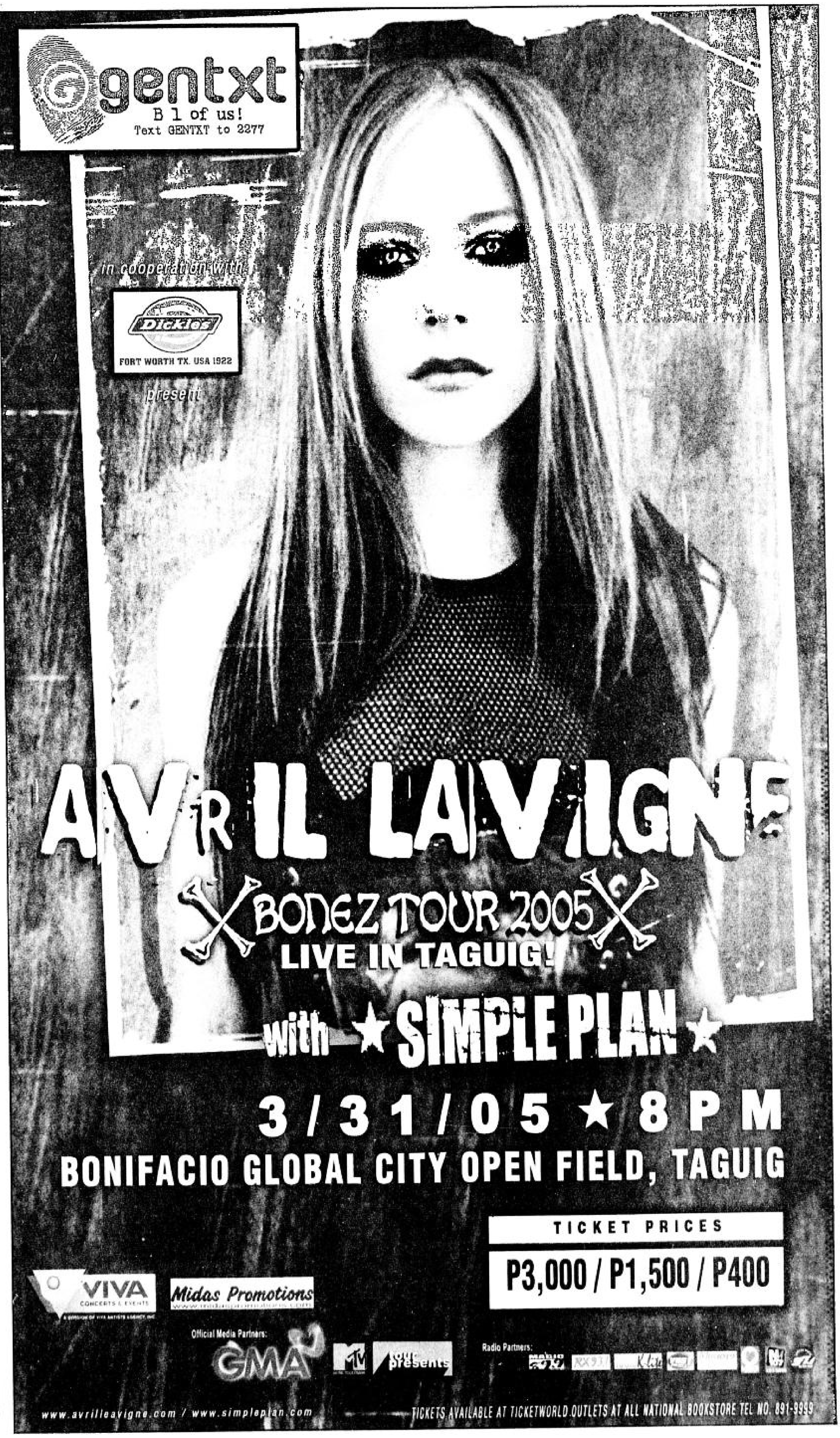
Complimentary copies of the children's tale will be distributed, along with some gifts provided by Uni-president, **Soka Gakkai**, Columbia International Food Products and Cebu Pacific. Call 411-9142.



ZAR GALVEZ on "American Idol"

GALVEZ

IN SMOKEY MOUNTAIN (Galvez, right front)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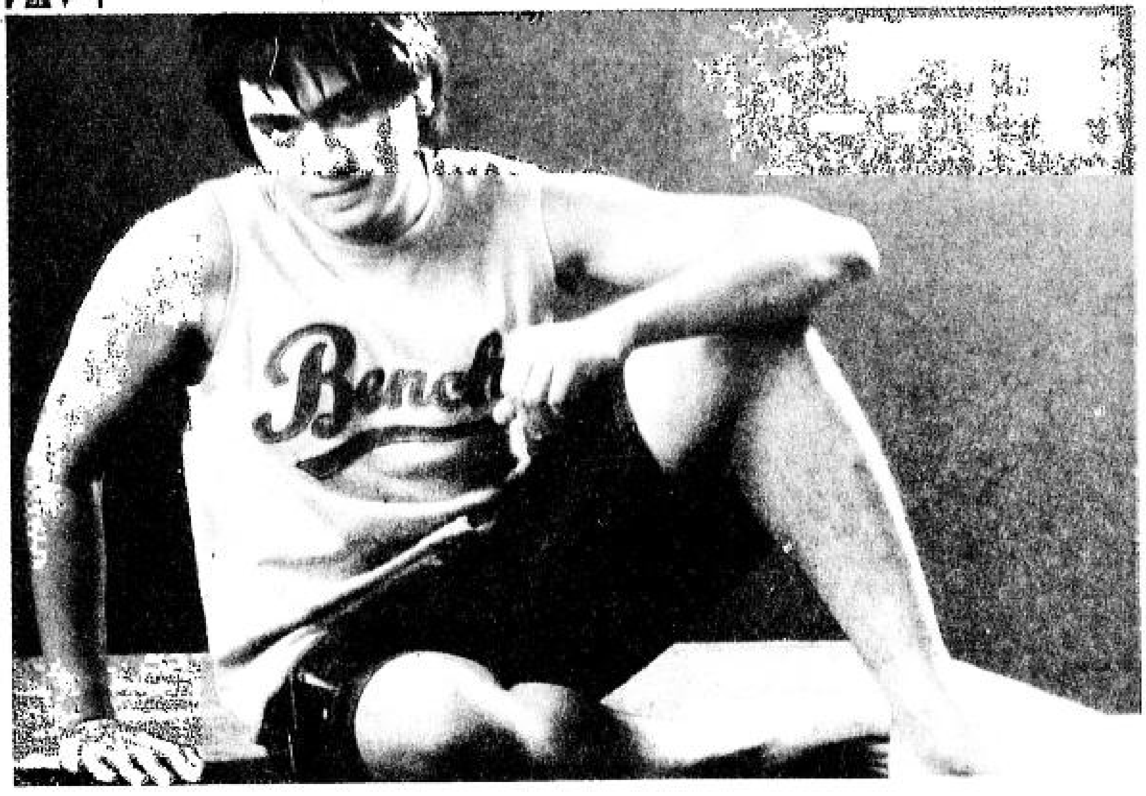
'StarStruck'
cat smile admits 60 pe

The non-singer's debut album from Universal Records has been on the charts for the past five months and 2 singles have gone gold



By Larry Leviste
Contributor

RAINIER Castillo, the "StarStruck" star with the Cheshire cat smile, admits that 60 percent of his texting fans are gay.

"*Natutuwa ako* because the other 40 percent are pre-teeners," says Rainier, now sporting a shorter albeit spikier haircut by Alex Carbonel of Fix by Bench.

Rainier arrives for this exclusive INQUIRER Entertainment shoot on the dot, wearing his fa-

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star with Cheshire ercent of his fans are gay

nous smile accompanied by a nervous giggle.

Nope, he decided not to watch his first movie, "So Happy Together" by Joel Lamangan—shown during December's Metro Manila Film Festival—yet because he saw his new Bench billboard on Edsa and thought he looked chubby.

Yes, Rainier has strong feelings for Sheena Halili, a fellow contestant in Batch 1 of "StarStruck." Rainier was her escort during her debut last month.

His debut album from Universal Records has been on the charts for the past five months. The singles "I Love You, Babe" and "Salamat sa Pansin" have gone gold. The songs were composed by Lito Ocampo and Bobby Tomas.

"It took six months to record the songs," says the 20-year-old Libran. "I'm not really a good singer but I persevered. The recordings were intense. I had to sing the songs over and over. But the fans seem to like the results. That makes me happy."

And now the Rainier Joseph Castillo factoids:

Prefers the color green in any shade, including drab olive or leafy green.

Favorite food is pizza with all the toppings.

Admires Cameron Diaz and Brad Pitt as actors.

Listens to Boyz II Men in the car.

His best friends are Mark Herras and Dion Ignacio.

Takes care of a dog named Porky and a mynah bird named Wacky.

Hasn't played basketball lately.

Lists his hobbies as sleeping, computer games and eating.

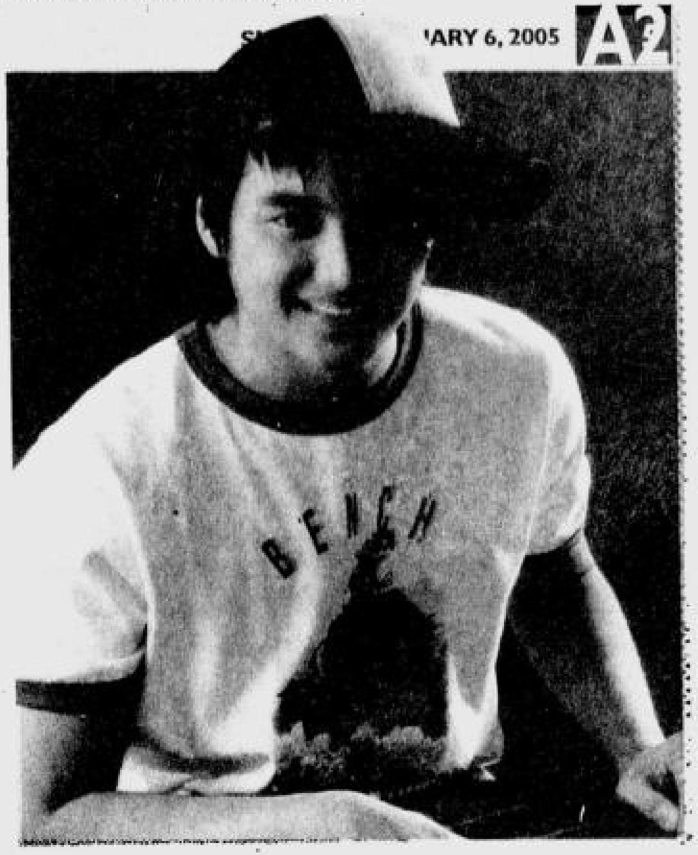
Is comfortable doing comedy.

He was 15 when he had his first kiss with his first girlfriend.

Looks at a girl's eyes first because he believes those are the windows of the soul.

And the best advice his parents gave him is: Stay humble forever.

DIRECTED BY LARRY LEVISTE
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA
MENSWEAR BY BENCH, AT SUPER BENCH, MARKET, MARKET!
STYLED BY EFREN TE OF BENCH
HAIR AND GROOMING BY FERDIE PALLARCA OF FIX SM NORTH EDSA



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THE FOXY LADIES bring back the spirit of Copacabana of the '70s.

SHOW TIME

Foxy Ladies 'round midnight at Spirits Malate

BACK in the '70s, Copacobana was one of the first places to utilize gay divas as entertainment. People from all walks of life packed this unique nightspot at the Remedios Circle in Malate to watch the performances of gay impersonators who cross-dressed and looked just like the divas of that time, such as Dionne Warwick and Diana Ross.

A quarter of a century later, the spirit of these pioneering gay divas of the Copacobana continues to live in the performances of The Foxy Ladies at the Spirits Malate Coyote Bar. Located on the famous J. Nakpil strip of Malate, Spirits Malate Coyote Bar opens its doors every Wednesday to partygoers who want to catch the ultimate gay divas in a very naughty and hilarious comedy show..

Dubbed "Red Lips," the show packs fire, passion and fantastic entertainment. Since its opening performance a few Wednesdays ago, The Foxy Ladies have been drawing big crowds to Spirits Malate Coyote Bar. They perform at 11:30 p.m. and 2 a.m.

The Foxy Ladies perform their versions of OPM, Broadway hits, movie themes, and chart busters. The shows draw a lot of laughs from the audience because of the antics that accompany the song and dance, and, let's not forget, the very realistic impersonations of very popular female performers.

The Foxy Ladies are Katkat Dasalla, who doubles as Madonna and Britney Spears; Kim Barola as Jolina Magdangal, Jasmine Trias and Irtha Kit; Jimby Barrameda as Celine Dion and other Filipina divas; Marvin Martinez who doubles as Sharon "Ate Shawi" Cuneta; and Donna Masaplod and Ira Gueta who mimic other divas.

All perform in complete costume.

"Red Lips" goes on stage at Spirits Malate Coyote Bar on Wednesdays featuring The Foxy Ladies at 11:30 p.m. and 2 a.m.

On regular nights, guests can catch the sexy Coyote Dancers who provide non-stop, booty-shaking dance action.

Spirits Malate Coyote Bar will soon host the search for Mr. and Ms Heavenly Bodies.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Deadline set for Mossimo Bikini Summit '05

SHOW TIME

THE COUNTRY'S biggest summer event, the Mossimo Bikini Summit (MBS), has set its deadline for this year's applications on Tuesday, Feb. 8.

All entry forms, including one close-up and one full-body shot photos must be submitted to any Mossimo branch on or before that date.

Applicants must be single, not more than 25 years old, of any nationality, at least 5-foot-8 for men and 5-foot-4 for women, and with the personality and looks to match.

The annual staging of the MBS this year moves to Metro Manila for the first time since it started four years ago. The MBS 2005 finals are slated on April 30 at the Araneta Coliseum. Prior to the finals night, there will be a series of events in Boracay, where the previous editions were held.

This year, Cast & Crew, the summit organizer and producer headed by Calvin Neria and Duds Santiago, also announces that the first regional search of the Mossimo Bikini Summit will take place in Cebu City on March 19 at the Cebu Yatch Club.

The winners of the searches will automatically represent their provinces in the finals Manila.

For details, call Cast & Crew, 718-1032, or log on to www.mossimobikinisummit.compass.com.ph.

SIGNING franchise agreement with Cebu events organizer Goodfellows Inc. at Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center are (from left) Duds Santiago and Calvin Neria of Cast & Crew, Goodfellows president Ken Miyahara and Goodfellows marketing coordinator Joan Maglasang.

2004 winners Thea Kriegl and Marco Grazzini

Love, good luck at Sta. Lucia East

LOVE, cheer and good luck abound this month at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and The Brick Road.

Piolo Pascual and Bea Alonzo, lead stars of Star Cinema's "Dreamboy," spend the afternoon with fans today at the mall.

On Feb. 8, welcome the year of the Wooden Rooster as dragon and lion dancers spread cheer and good luck around the mall.

Guest celebrity searchers try to find their dream dates in the Games of the Heart Dating Game on Feb. 11. They will be searching for Sta. Lucia's models—the Generation East and Sexy Body models and finalists.

In a unique singing contest, family members share the limelight in the finals of the In Love with My Family duet singing contest. A pair of family members may join—husband and wife, mother and son, father and daughter or brother and sister.

Get entry forms from the Ad & Promo Department and attach a P100 single purchase receipt dated Jan. 10 to Feb. 8 from Sta. Lucia East Department Store. Include a photocopy of your valid ID and birth certificate.

Only the first 12 pairs to submit entries can join the finals on Feb. 12 with guest Roselle Nava.

Cash prizes and gift certificates await winning pairs.

Finalists of Mr. & Ms Sexy Body 2005 take to the ramp in preparation for the grand finals. Wajihuara, Radioactive Sago Project, Brown Beat All Stars, Juan Pablo Dream and Out of the Box will perform.

On Valentine's Day, doctors and nurses hold the Love You Heart medical mission at the Entertainment Center. Get free medical check-up and consultation and have your blood pressure and sugar level checked, for free.

The Philippine National Red Cross, Sta. Lucia Health Care and AMA School of Medicine will provide free services.

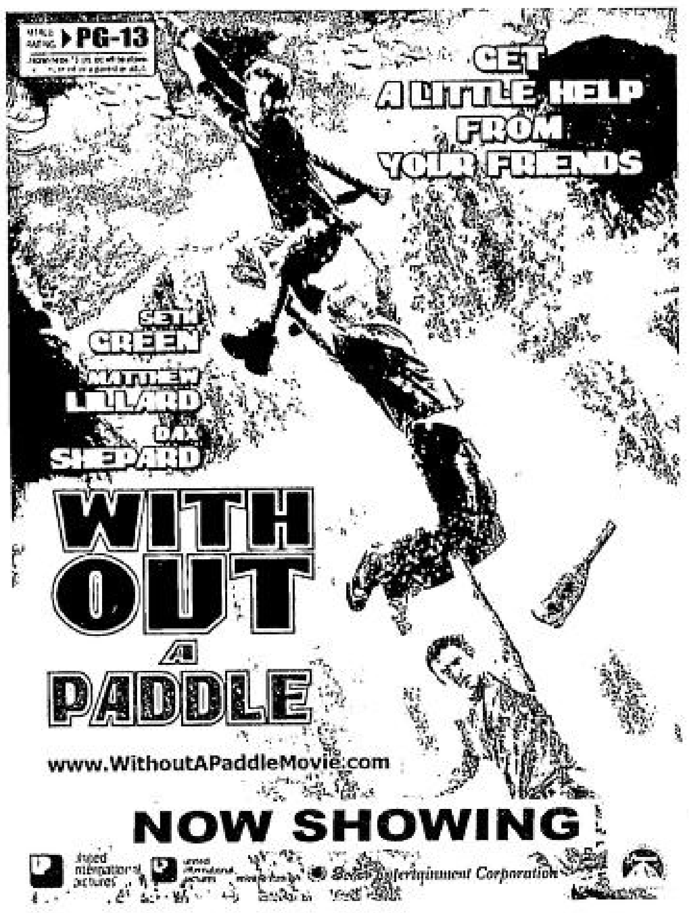
At 7 p.m., be serenaded with love songs as The Brick Road gears up for a Valentine concert. Dine under the stars and celebrate at Gloria Maris, Don Henrico's, TGI Friday's, Cabalen, Padi's Point, Boardwalk KTV or Figaro.

The grand finals of the Sexy Body search happens at The Brick Road on Feb. 19.

Finally, Star Records artists Divo, Yachang and Josh Santana promote their respective albums on Feb. 20, 26 and 27.

The events are sponsored by Mongkok Dimsum & Noodles, Silverworks, Catherine's Flower Shop, Chuckles & Doodles, Broadway Gems and Balloon City.

Call Ad & Promo Department, 681-5401 local 109.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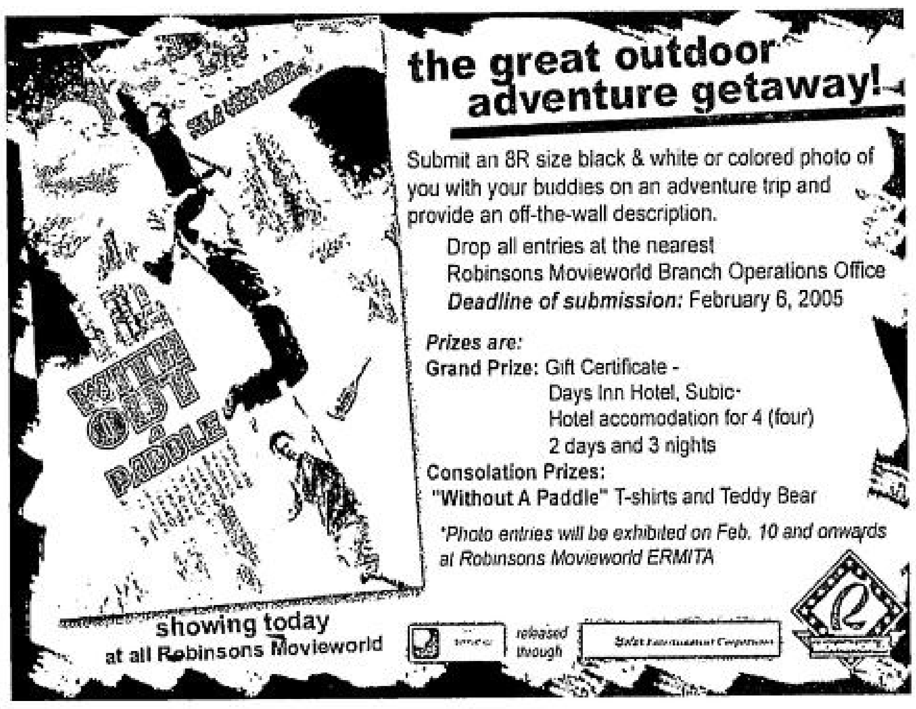

the great outdoor adventure getaway!

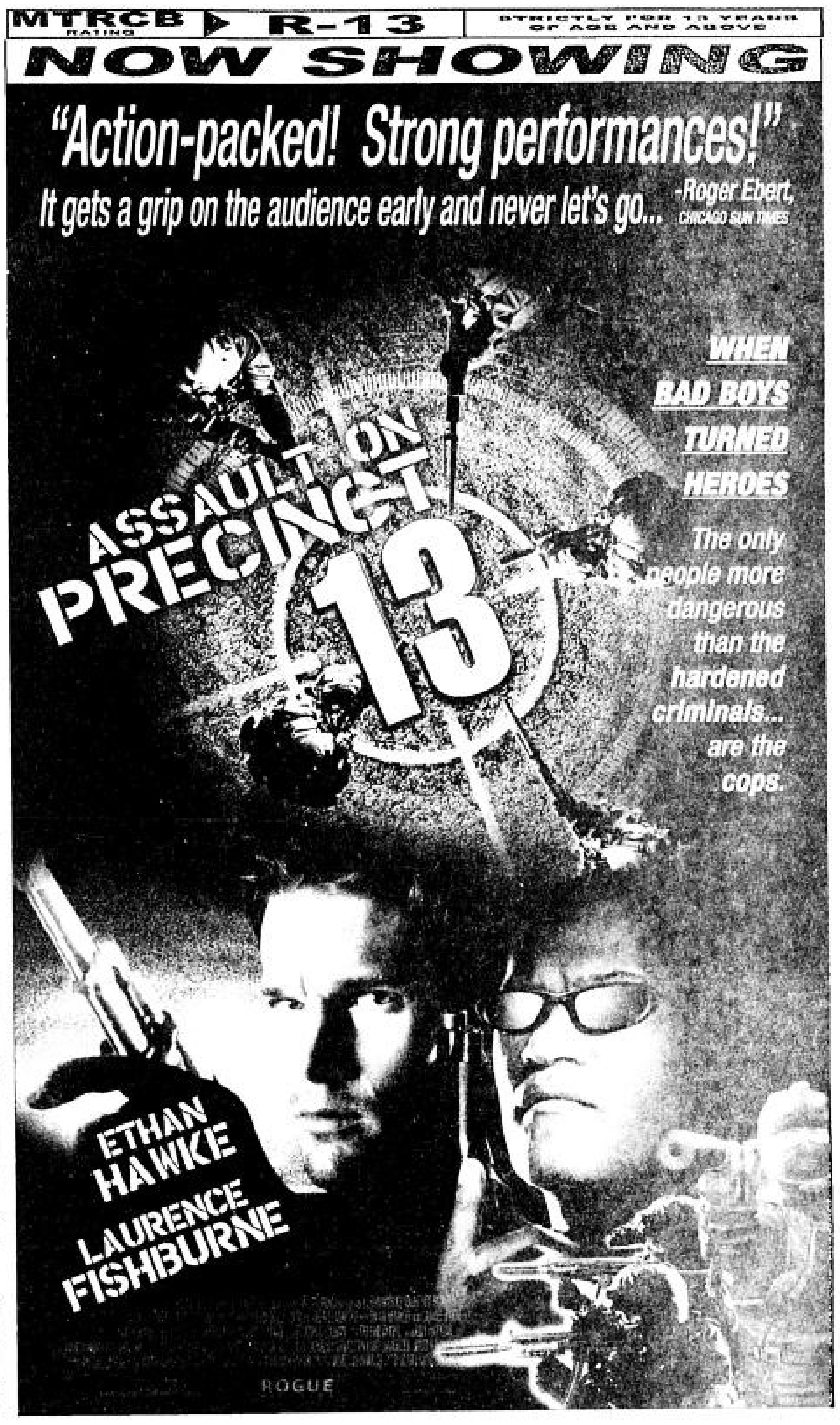
Submit an 8R size black & white or colored photo of you with your buddies on an adventure trip and provide an off-the-wall description.

Drop all entries at the nearest
Robinsons Movieworld Branch Operations Office
Deadline of submission: February 6, 2005

Prizes are:
Grand Prize: Gift Certificate -
Days Inn Hotel, Subic-
Hotel accomodation for 4 (four)
2 days and 3 nights
Consolation Prizes:
"Without A Paddle" T-shirts and Teddy Bear

**Photo entries will be exhibited on Feb. 10 and onwards at Robinsons Movieworld ERMITA*

showing today
at all Robinsons Movieworld
released through Solar Entertainment Corporation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WHEN BAD BOYS TURNED HEROES
The only people more dangerous than the hardened criminals... are the cops.
ETHAN HAWKE
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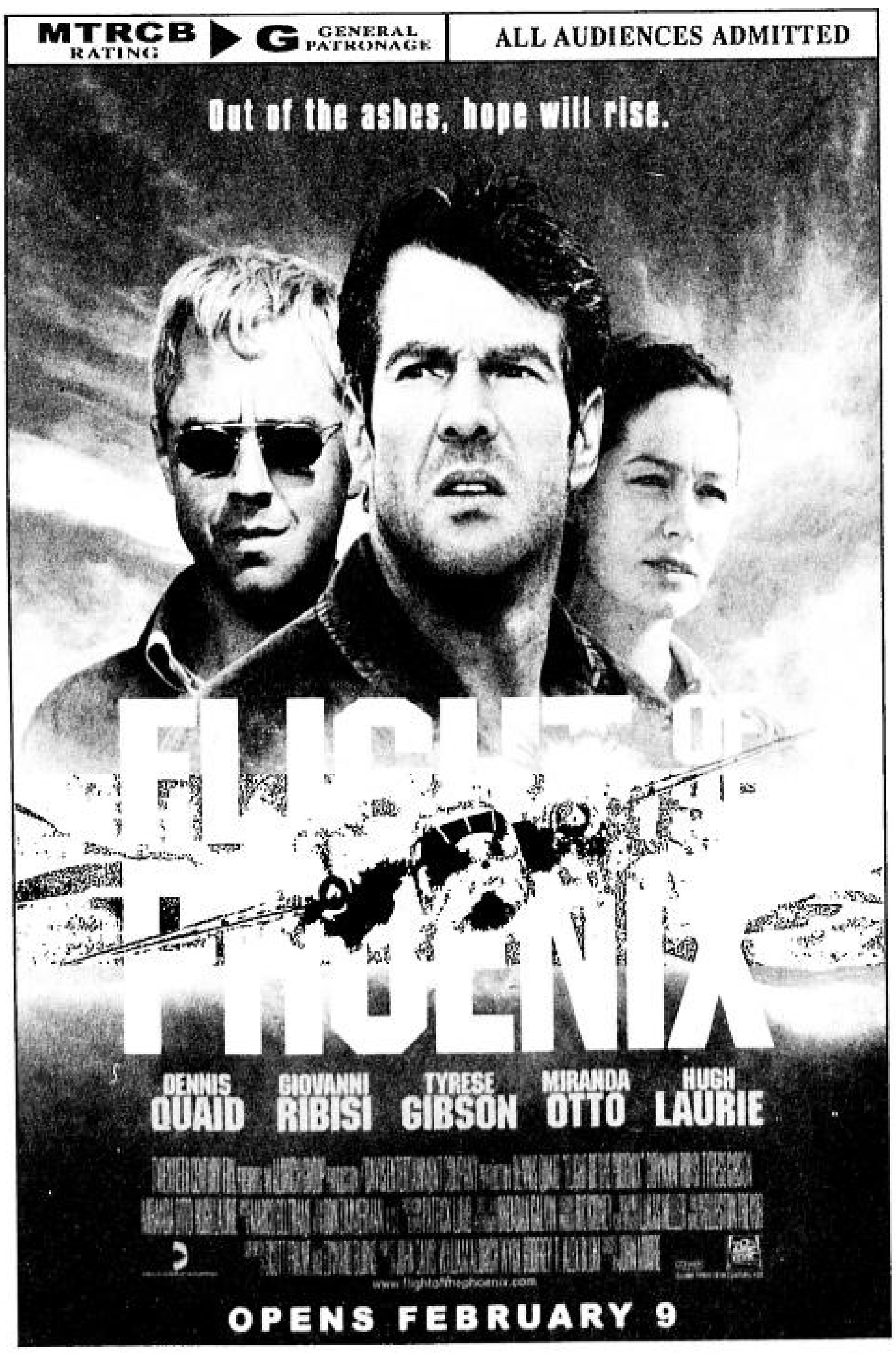
ROGUE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NOW THE TALK OF THE TOWN!!!
Priceless chemistry, excellent comedic timing and magnetic screen presence of the cast...a cinematic event.
Dennis Ladaw - The Manila Times, Jan 26, 2005
Robert De Niro Ben Stiller Dustin Hoffman Barbra Streisand Blythe Danner Teri Polo
Meet the Fockers
Misery loves family.
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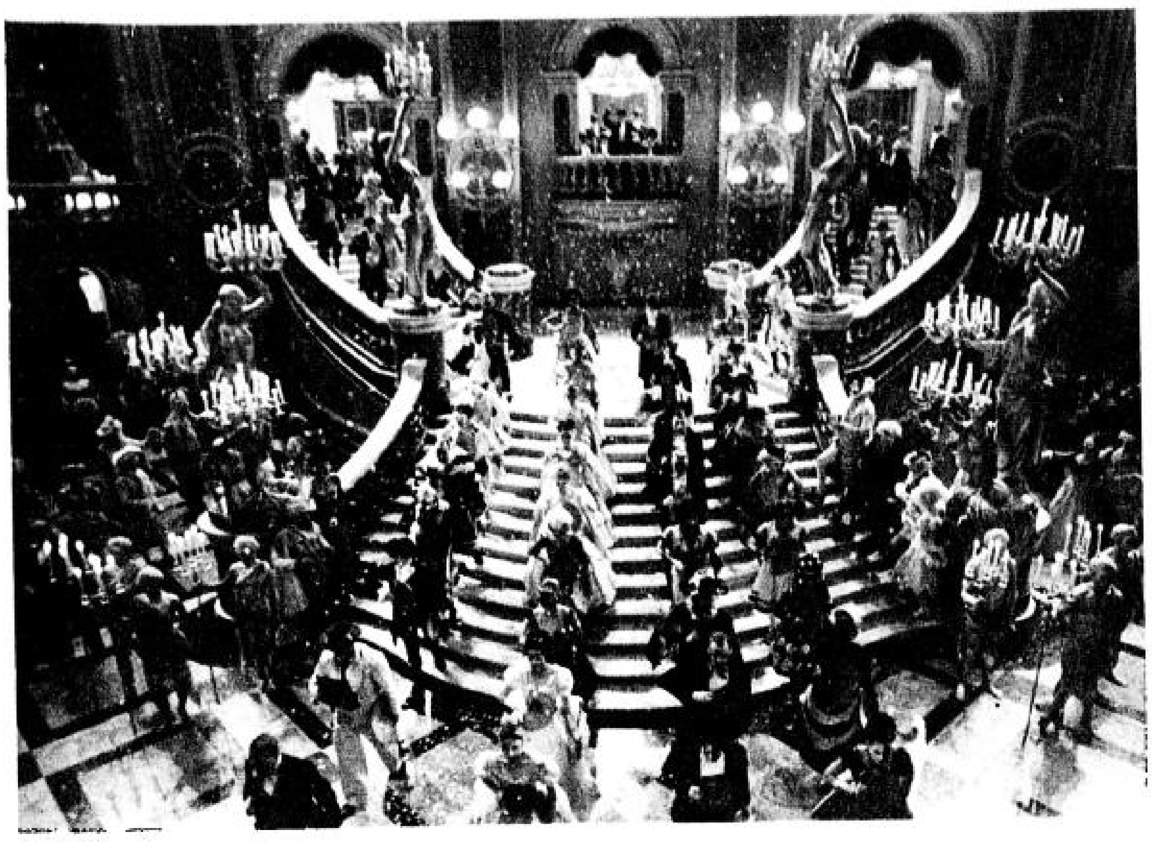

FAMILY. "I've written 14 musicals (including 'Phantom,' left) and they're all my children in a way," says Lloyd Webber.

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber . . .

From page A2-2

came out in England on record first; nobody was interested in producing it for the theater, although we had written it as if it was actually being made for the theater. Nobody would do it, but we managed to get it recorded. In England, it came out to the kind of reviews that were neither one thing nor the other. It was rock but young people wouldn't take to it, and so we had almost written it off.

We came here, got off the plane and found ourselves on the cover of Time magazine. We had no idea... we had hit something. We had no idea what to expect and there was a bit of a controversy about it. On the other hand, it was hugely embraced. It was on every radio station in its entirety.

Would you say that rock was a huge influence on you?

It would perhaps be wrong to say that my roots are in rock. But rock was certainly an influence. My father was the director of the London College of Music and my mother was quite a well-known pianist and piano teacher. My brother is a classical cellist and John Mill, the concert pianist who won the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, used to live in our house so there was music around me all the time.

I did like the Beatles and the Everly Brothers. My father had a very strong view about music that if it was any good, it really didn't matter where it came from. I developed very early on a love of theater and the opera, which probably came from my aunt, who was an actress. One of the things that had a most profound effect on me was going to see a production of [the opera] "Peter Grimes" when I was very small.

I left Oxford because I had met Tim Rice and I wanted to work with him. I thought that in doing so, perhaps I could switch horses and go to the Royal College of Music. My dad, who was the boss of one of the big colleges in London, said, "I don't want you to go to a music college to be completely formally trained because there's a danger that they'll educate the music out of you." That was interesting.

Who are the other composers that you listen to?

Benjamin Britten and Leonard Bernstein. Rodgers and Hammerstein had a huge influence on me when I was a kid. I was deeply unfashionable at the time because I remember that everybody was making fun of me at school. All because I'd been asked by Richard Rodgers to go to the opening night of "The Sound,of Music" [after] I wrote him a fan letter. At that time, with the Beatles all around, that was about as un-hip as you could possibly do.

"The Sound of Music" got the worst reviews that you ever saw in London. They made more fun of me at school, saying, "Look what's happened to your hero." I had my first exposure to creative advertising because one of the reviews said that if you're a diabetic and craved sickly sweet things, you should take along a load of extra insulin and you would not fail to thrill to "The Sound of Music."

Well, for the next eight years at the Palace Theater was where you didn't fail to thrill to "The Sound of Music" [laughs].

I also like Mozart, but the other one I am absolutely passionate about, because he has this incredible melodic talent, is Prokofiev. He's one of the most melodic geniuses of all time. It's staggering. I found Prokofiev when I was very young.

What do you appreciate in life aside from music?

Wine, paintings, and architecture are three things that I love most of all. I was very honored that my art collection was shown at the Royal Academy in London last year. It gave people an opportunity to see the other side of me because I'm passionate about Victorian paintings as I'm now actually passionate about an artist called Felix Nussbaum. That shows how catholic my tastes are.

This is all fitting in with what I was saying to you about the songs of the ghetto, because Felix Nussbaum was a German Jew who got out and went to Brussels but he was put in a concentration camp. He escaped, and then he painted these extraordinary pictures which are now in a museum. There is an awful twist to the story. He managed to paint in the four years he was away but he was betrayed at the last minute. He was on the last train to Auschwitz. I've started collecting him. I'm becoming very passionate about this. I think he's probably one of the finest artists of the twentieth century.

My tastes are very wide. I'm getting very interested in some of the inter-war German art which couldn't be more different from my old roots in Victorian art. I am very inspired by anything visual and it's one of the things that Joel most impressed me about in this movie.

Wine and architecture—I am afraid this is too long a story for us to go into now [laughs].

Baron: I was drunk but I wasn't driving

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTOR Baron Geisler has admitted he was drunk but denied he was on drugs when his car rammed into another vehicle in Quezon City early Wednesday morning.

The 21-year-old actor also denied he was driving the black Mazda when it smashed into a green Mitsubishi Lancer driven by John Ablan, reportedly a relative of Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr., at about 2:30 a.m., along Mariano Marcos Avenue.

The actor pointed to his companion, Ariel Gatmaitan, as the one behind the wheel that night.

A statement sent to INQUIRER Entertainment last Friday said Baron "could prove he was not the one driving."

Baron, an ABS-CBN Star Magic artist, said he is willing to undergo a drug test to disprove reports that he took prohibited drugs.

The actor was on his way home from a gathering at a friend's house when the accident happened, said the statement.

"Baron was drunk but definitely not 'bangag,' as some sources claimed," the statement said.

"Baron is extending his sincerest apologies to everyone for his untoward behavior in the recent accident he was involved in," said ABS-CBN. "Baron is apologizing to Mr. Ablan for the inconvenience he caused the latter."

The Mazda belongs to the actor's brother and Taekwando champ, Donald Geisler, traffic authorities had said.

Baron and Ablan's vehicles were taken to the Traffic Sector 5 office, where the actor allegedly cursed and argued with traffic officers.

"Both parties settled that same morning," said the statement, referring to Baron and Ablan. "Baron is aware that being an *artista*, he has to set good examples for others to follow."

Baron played the character Fonzy in the now defunct youth-oriented show "Tabing Ilog" on ABS-CBN. He was nominated for best supporting actor by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino for his work in Rory Quintos' "Anak."

8 KEYS TO YOUR DIFFERENT INTERESTS

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A change of heart
INQUIRER Golf
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Sweetheart season
JOB Market
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3 ACADEMY AWARDS NOMINATIONS
ART DIRECTION • CINEMATOGRAPHY • ORIGINAL SONG

3 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE • BEST ACTRESS • BEST ORIGINAL SONG

Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic tale of terror, mystery and romance, seen by over 8 million people worldwide, comes to the big screen for the first time.
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PLDT Romances Cebu!

Telebabad to Death, Nakakalokang Sale at Hatid Regalo

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National Telebabad Day
JANUARY 5 - 9
NAKAKALOKANG SALE!
HOUSEHOLD & BUSINESS
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2004-2005 NORTH LUZON TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
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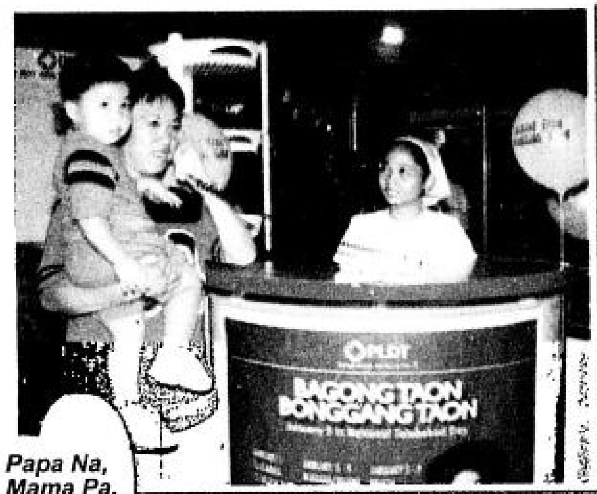
PLDT


PLDT
BAGONG TAON BONGGANG TAON

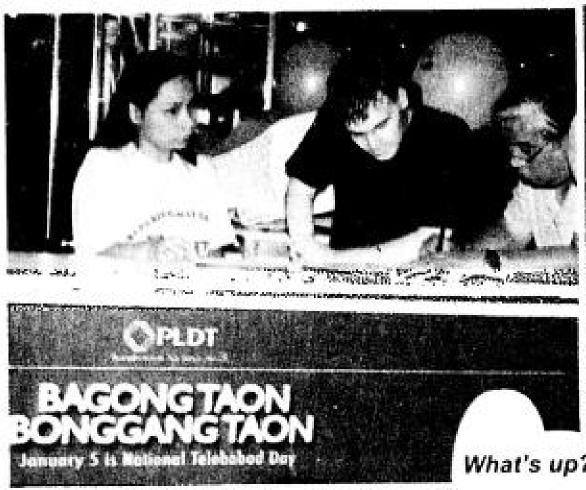
Papa Na, Mama Pa.

Telebabad to death si Mang Rene at ang asawa niyang si Aling Clara.

FIESTA CARAVAN!
Sa PLDT,
Ang Saya!
GAN!

Hala Bira!

Bigay-todo ang pagsayaw ng mga Cebuana beauties.


PLDT
BAGONG TAON
BONGGANG TAON
January 5 is National Telebabad Day

What's up?

Pati ang expat na si Patrick ay nagsign-up para maka-avail ng nakakalokang sale.

Ola Cebu!

Bonggang-bongga ang pag-welcome ng mga Cebuano sa komedyanteng si Joy Viado at sa PLDT Home Rewards Caravan.

Beauty na ko!

Feeling Ms. Universe si Aling Ising dahil sa pampabeauting Dunst & Moore Facial Spa from PLDT Home Rewards.

"Talagang niromansa kami," this was the reaction of many Cebuano residents sa bigay-todong 5-day relationship marketing blitz ng PLDT sa Cebu.

"Daghang Salamat sa PLDT. Nalipay kaayo kami," were their salivating expressions as PLDT brought its exciting National Telebabad Day, Nakakalokang Sale and Sugod Barangay, Hatid Regalo to the Queen City of the South.

Telebabad to Death

Simula pa lang bongga na! Kinilig ang lahat sa special "National Telebabad Day" noong January 5. Paano ba naman, isang buong araw, daan-daang libong PLDT subscribers ang nakipagkwentuhan sa ibang PLDT landline subscribers at SMART/Talk N' Text cellphone users all over the country for only P50! Gaano man katagal ang usapan, gaano man karami ang tawagan nila, P50 pa rin.

Nakakalokang Sale

Hit na hit din ang mga PLDT booths sa SM City Cebu at iba pang commercial centers. Halos mabaliw ang lahat sa nakakain-love na special offers at discounts sa "Nakakalokang Sale." May free installation, up to 2 months free landline use at up to 50 percent discount on service fees sa myDSL, ang napakabilis na broadband Internet service ng PLDT. Instant sign-up sila sa ganda ng offers--kaya instant happy PLDT subscribers sila.

Sugod Barangay, Hatid Regalo

Fiestang-fiesta naman ang mga barangay dahil sa "Sugod Barangay, Hatid Regalo." Rumonda ang mga Home Rewards Caravan at nanuyo sa iba't-ibang lugar all over Cebu gaya ng Mango Ave., Reclamation Area, Poblacion, Mandaue Plaza, at marami pang iba para mamigay ng rewards. May brass band pa at drum and bugle corps kaya feel na feel talaga ang fiesta moment.

Pinangunahan nina Cebuana comedienne Joy Viado at mga hosts ng sikat na noontime show na Eat Bulaga na sina Wally at Jose ang Home Rewards Caravan. Maraming naaliw at natuwa sa mga jokes at hirit nila habang namimigay sila ng regalo at nag-offer pa ng premium items at special discounts.

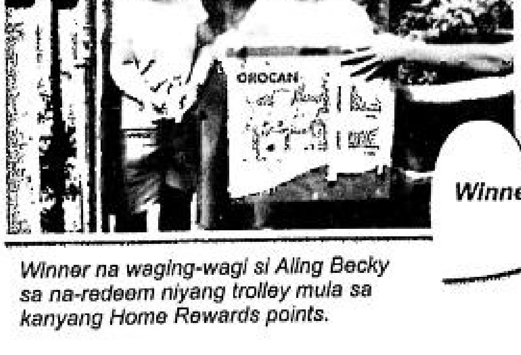
May Kasunod Pa

Talagang bonggang bongga ang pagromansa ng PLDT sa Cebu. Marami ang natuwa at nabighani sa kakaiba at todo-value offers na tanging PLDT lang ang kayang magbigay. Kaya saan ka pa pupunta? Walang ganito sa iba!

Abangan!

Sakay Na!

Umarangkada ang PLDT Free Installation Team sa mahigit na 20 barangay sa Cebu.



Winner!

Winner na waging-wagi si Aling Becky sa na-redeem niyang trolley mula sa kanyang Home Rewards points.

Pinay makes it to 'ER'

GIOVANNIE PICO plays a medical student on the new season of the hospital drama.

GIOVANNIE PICO, a Filipino actress based in San Francisco, has landed a coveted role in the latest season of the long-running television series "ER," about the medical staff of a Chicago hospital.

She plays the role of Ludlow, a medical student.

The season is now airing in the US.

"It's long been my goal to represent Filipino-Americans in the mainstream media," Giovannie said of her "ER" coup.

Prior to the TV series, Giovannie made "American Yearbook," an independent film production about the dangers of high school bullying, where she plays the lead character Amanda Hunter.

The role was originally written for a Caucasian but director Brian Ging said he decided to rewrite it after Giovannie auditioned for the part.

The movie won the Audience Choice Award in the Santa Monica Film Festival, and is still being exhibited in movie festivals worldwide.

Giovannie's acting career in her adoptive country started in theater, with parts in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Peter Pan," "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Pinocchio." From these childhood roles, she moved on to do commercials, voice-overs and movies.

Among her film credits are lead roles in indie films such as "Mail Order Bride," "Broken Wings," "Counting the Days," and "Seasons Under the Bridge."

This year, she is set to take a major role in Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" in San Francisco.

Giovannie Anne Cabangis-Espiritu was born in Manila and migrated to the US with her family when she was a year old. She comes from a clan of architects and engineers.

Randy Ypon, Contributor

LAVIGNE. With Simple Plan, the group behind the hits "Perfect" and "Addicted"

Avril Lavigne performs at Global City

CANADIAN singer-songwriter Avril Lavigne brings her "Bonez Tour" to Manila for a one-night concert event on March 31, 8 p.m., at the Bonifacio Global City Open Field in Taguig City.

Avril's guests in the concert is the Canadian band Simple Plan, composed of high school pals Pierre Bouvier (vocals), Jeff Stinco (guitar), David Desrosiers (bass), Sebastien Lefebvre (guitar) and Chuck Comeau (drums).

Avril Lavigne's "Bonez Tour" is brought to Manila by Globe Gentxt in cooperation with Dickies. It is also made possible by Viva Events and Concerts.

Considering her achievements, it seems hard to believe that Avril, who took the worldwide music scene by storm in 2002 with her hit song "Complicated" when she was only 17 years old, is still taking her tentative steps toward adulthood. Yet she says that not only has

AVRIL/ A3-2

LUCY TORRES: The pitfalls of being 'perfect'
/JUICE, A32

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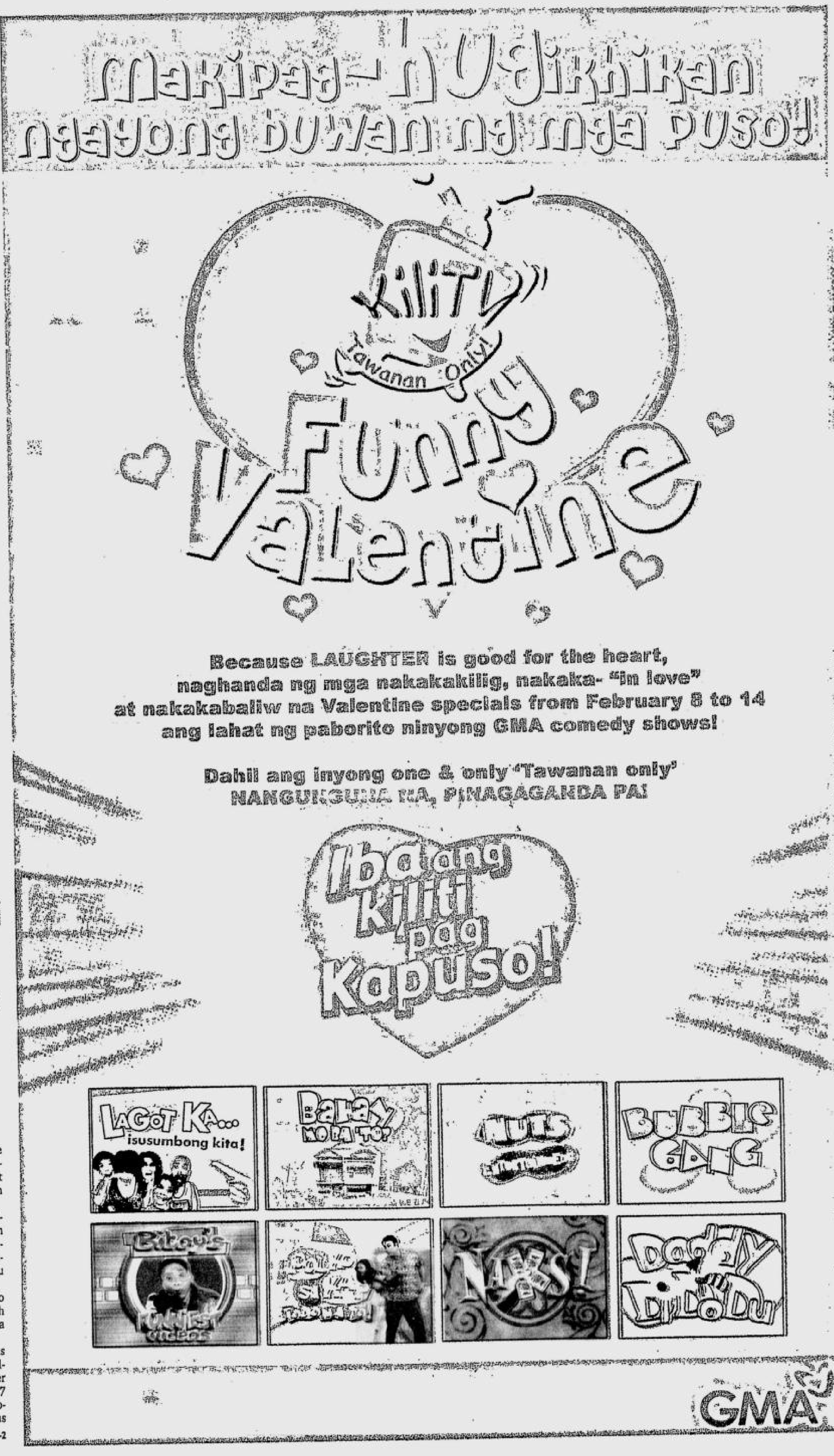

Because LAUGHTER is good for the heart,
naghanda ng mga nakakakilig, nakaka- "in love"
at nakakabaliw na Valentine specials from February 8 to 14
ang lahat ng paborito ninyong GMA comedy shows!

Dahil ang inyong one & only 'Tawanan only'
NANGUNGUNA KA, PINAGAGANDA PA!

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Richard Gere Jennifer Lopez Susan Sarandon
Shall we Dance?
MTRCB Rating: G (All ages admitted)

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WITHOUT A PADDLE
MTRCB RATING: PG13

ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
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A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
MTRCB RATING: R13

RACING STRIPES
Subject to MTRCB RATING

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11:00 FS / 11:15 MF / 1:30 / 3:45 / 6:00 / 8:15 / 10:00 LFS / 10:30 LMF / 12:15 END

2 MEET THE FOCKERS
11:25 FS / 11:55 MF / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35 / 10:20 LFS / 10:45 LMF / 12:40 END

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 SHALL WE DANCE
2 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
3 SHALL WE DANCE
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
5 RACING STRIPES
6 WITHOUT A PADDLE
7 KUNG FU HUSTLE
8 OCEAN'S TWELVE
9 MEET THE FOCKERS
10 ELEKTRA
11 BLADE TRINITY
12 WHITE NOISE

sm city fairview
1 SALSA smcinemaexclusive
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 ELEKTRA
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
7 SHALL WE DANCE
8 RACING STRIPES
9 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
10 MAD HOUSE
11 BLADE TRINITY
12 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

sm city north edsa
1 ELEKTRA
2 RACING STRIPES
3 WITHOUT A PADDLE
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 SHALL WE DANCE
6 MEET THE FOCKERS
7 SHALL WE DANCE
8 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

sm city manila
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
4 SHALL WE DANCE
5 RACING STRIPES
6 ELEKTRA
7 WITHOUT A PADDLE
8 BLADE TRINITY
9 MEET THE FOCKERS
10 WHITE NOISE
11 LITTLE BLACK BOOK smcinemaexclusive
12 MAD HOUSE

sm city sta. mesa
1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 ELEKTRA
4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
6 RACING STRIPES
7 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
8 BLADE TRINITY
9 KUNG FU HUSTLE
10 WHITE NOISE

sm city southmall
1 SHALL WE DANCE
2 RACING STRIPES
3 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
4 SALSA smcinemaexclusive
5 BLADE TRINITY
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE
7 KUNG FU HUSTLE
8 ELEKTRA
9 MEET THE FOCKERS
10 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

sm city bicutan
1 ELEKTRA
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 ELEKTRA
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
4 MEET THE FOCKERS

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 ELEKTRA
2 BIRTH
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 OUT OF REACH
5 HELLWOLF
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4 ELEKTRA

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4 WHITE NOISE

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2 ELEKTRA
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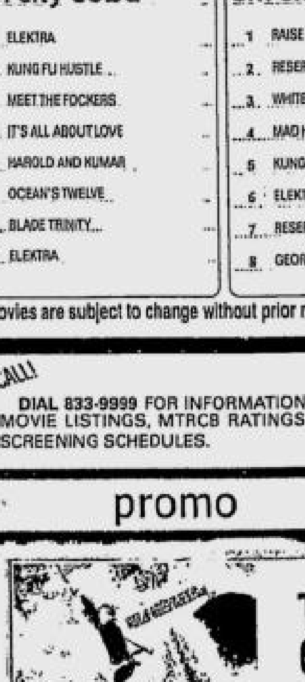

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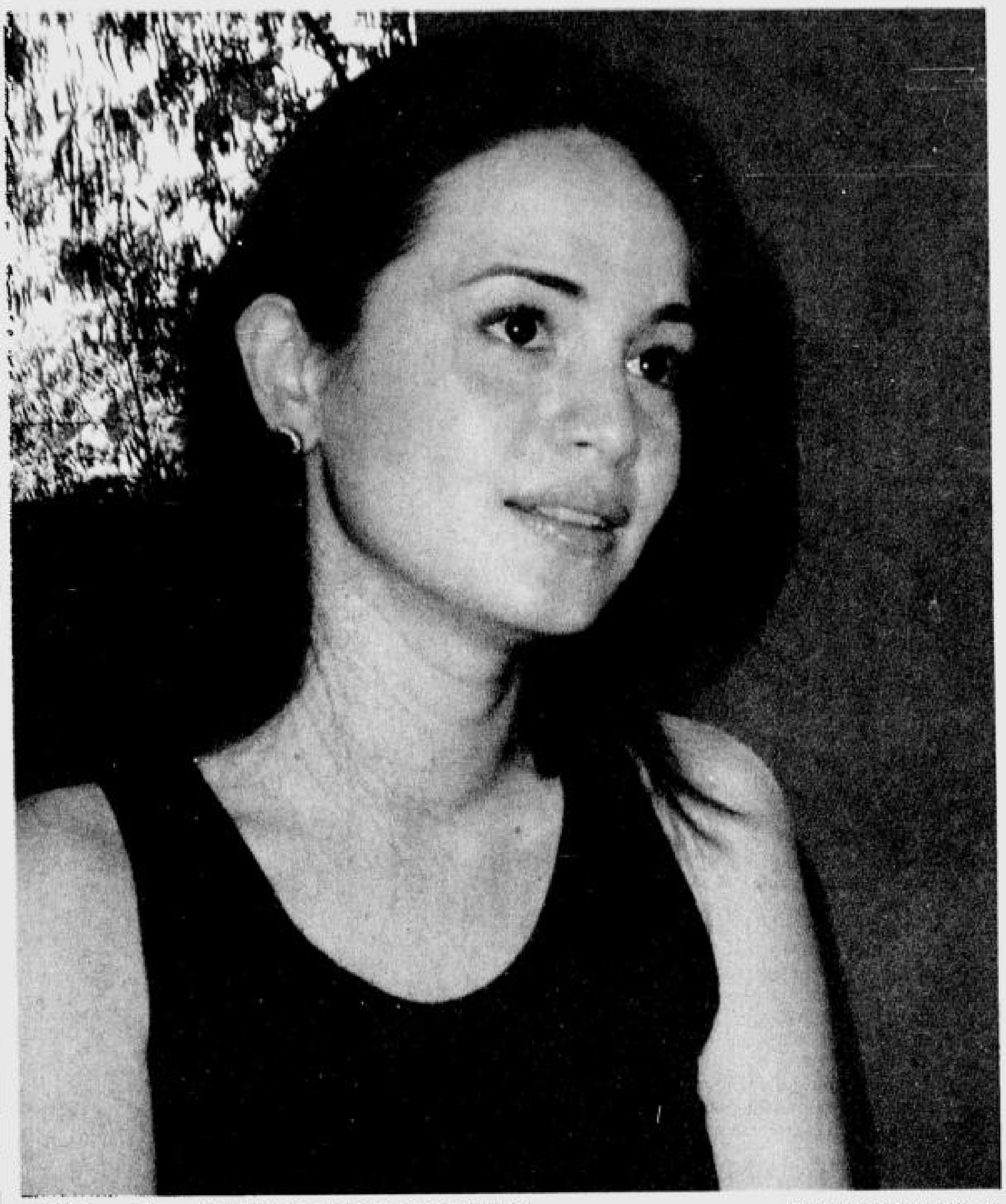


LUCY Torres Gomez interviewed at her home last February 1

PHOTO COURTESY OF YES! MAGAZINE

Lucy Torres: The pitfalls of being 'perfect'

ONE FULL year after the rumor first surfaced, here are the facts.

There is no evidence, no witness, no proof, no testimony that can lead any rational being to conclude that **Lucy Torres Gomez** shoplifted anything, whether Bvlgari watch, wallet, or perfume, from anywhere in Rustan's, be it from its Silver Vault or Tiffany's, whether in the late past or immediate present.

Rustan's own president, **Bienvenido Tantoco Jr.**, has categorically cleared Lucy. Writing on January 26 to GMA 7, in response to queries from the network for its January 30 story on the shoplifting, Tantoco said—

"It has come to our attention that there are rumors circulating that Mrs. Lucy Torres Gomez was caught shoplifting in Rustan's. We would like the public to know that there is no truth to this and that Mrs. Lucy Torres Gomez is a customer of good standing and is welcome in any of our establishments at any time."

Richard Gomez has also challenged anyone to come out in the open who charges that he, as Lucy's husband, paid off anybody—whether these be Rustan's sales clerks, security guards, or management itself—to cover up the incident. No one, it must be said, has come forward.

In addition, there is after all no Rustan's surveillance tape showing Lucy caught in the act of shoplifting, and ABS-CBN anchor **Karen Davila**, whom rumor had it—very likely, unfairly as well—held the precious tape in custody, has publicly denied ever having any such tape in her possession.

Another ABS-CBN anchor, **Ces Drilon**, has denied ever spreading the word that Lucy Torres was a "klepto," saying that all she recalls doing was asking at a party if the talk were true.

And San Juan Mayor **JV Ejercito**—who had once categorically told Richard that it was Ces who told him the "klepto" story and told it to him not as question but as fact—has also now backpedaled on his statement.

Finally, even *Manila Standard* editor in chief **Julie Yap Daza**, according to Richard, has told him she does not know who wrote the blind item on Lucy shoplifting. This, despite the fact that it was the *Manila Standard*—in its Feb. 20, 2004, issue, under its "Politics" section's "Scandal Sheet"—that first carried the blind item on a "very popular show-biz couple" where ". . . the angelic wife, a scion of an old haciendero family, suffers from kleptomania."

In other words, no one is owning up to the rumor now. Not now, when Lucy Torres—the other half of a very popular show-biz couple, the angelic wife, and the heiress to vast landholdings—has announced she's had enough.

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

"Never happened"

Lucy, in an interview at her Greenhills home last Tuesday, denied the rumor flatly: "It never happened."

But that it never did, did not make it any easier to take.

"It did not make me cry but it made me make *mukmok. Nagmukmok ako* for, *siguro, mga* three days. *Parang* I'm thinking, *'Tama ba 'tong nangyari?'* When I started to realize *na* it was actually spreading, *nagmukmok ako, parang ayokong lumabas*, because what would they think if I walk out? If I go to the malls, they'll probably think I'm out again on a shoplifting spree. How many people in the mall, or how many salespersons there, actually believe that I do, *di ba?* It doesn't sit well. *Kasi* I know *naman* I'm a paying customer *eh.*"

Lucy, stunning even in a basic black *sando* and denims, says all this in a voice that is soft and calm. I say quizzically that she sounds very collected.

"I've had more than a year *kasi* to let it sink. *Siguro*, if I heard it for the first time now, *na ganito kagrabe . . .*" she says, leaving the thought hanging.

Middle of last year, when she realized the rumor was not dying but was in fact reviving itself in far more vicious detail, she actually asked herself things like: "If I go to a mall, should I bring a bag? Or not bring a bag? If I bring a small bag, *ay* [they'll say] *nagpapa*-discreet. If I bring a big bag, *ay* [they'll say] she wants plenty of things. I have to make sure my pockets are small! *Para* they know *na* I have nowhere to stuff . . . I was just really, really cautious."

On her own, she weaned herself back to her senses.

"*Gulung-gulo ako.* And then I realized it should not be this way. I should not be paranoid. But when something is as nasty as that, and as widespread already, you can't help but act more cautious. *Para lang walang masabi.*"

But for nearly a year, she—plus Richard and their manager **Douglas Quijano**—all believed that the best way to kill the rumor was to keep quiet.

"Damned if you do, damned if you don't," Lucy says. "If you keep quiet about it, you're guilty. If you talk about it, you're defensive. And even if I start defending myself, I wouldn't even know where to begin. Because what do I defend first? The watch? The bracelet? The wallet? Or the perfume?"

Ms Perfect

Why did it happen at all?

"I don't know," Lucy says initially. "What really frustrates me is the fact that there are people who know that it's not true but would rather believe that it's true . . . The general impression I get is, *'Hayaan mo na kahit hindi totoo, maniwala na lang tayo.* At least *alam natin na* fair *ang Diyos, wala talagang perpektong tao.*"

Indeed, by society's standards, Lucy *is* perfect. She is educated, beautiful, graceful, tall, born to wealth and married to more of the same, with fame besides.

Everything about her life sounds like a fairy tale. But as fairy tales go, the princess always becomes the envy of many. In this case, strangely, the envy not of those with nothing, but of the equally rich and somewhat famous.

"The rumor circulated mainly among the upper crust of society," Lucy says.

But she is the first to say she is blessed, although for very different reasons.

"My family—I have a wonderful family, and I have a very tight group of friends . . . Really, what more can I ask for? What I have now is more than what I even dreamt for myself as a little girl. So *'yong dasal ko lang palagi* is, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' Everything I have now is just icing on the cake. I have what truly matters to me, and that's my family."

In all this, what people don't know is that Lucy is also one very intelligent woman. Very articulate, very curious, and because she has wonderful manners to go with all that, never difficult on the nerves.

Unfortunately for people like that, what pain there is is often rendered more intense by the vigor of their minds. In the end, people like Lucy will rail against the unfairness, but will know exactly why they are singled out.

"*Parang* people gauge their happiness from somebody else's downfall," she muses. "They fault me for what they think is a perfect life. But I would be the first to admit that I am not perfect, and that I do not have a perfect life, so what can be fairer than that? . . . I am the first to say 'I'm not perfect!' I really am not. I have my days when I'm sad."

She adds, "I don't know how they define perfect. My husband is Richard, my daughter is Juliana—maybe that makes me perfect? I don't know."

But no, she makes clear, she does not rue celebrity—that thing which has long surrounded her husband and which is responsible for much of the public's appetite for gossip about her now.

"I still have more to be thankful for," Lucy says with a smile. "And so little to complain about. I will not apologize for having a good life. I have been blessed, I admit that. And happiness is a choice, it is a blessing I enjoy. Why should I apologize for that? I've done no harm, I've done no one any wrong."

Zhang Ziyi, Penelope Cruz will also hand out 'golden guys'

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood imports Zhang Ziyi and Penelope Cruz have joined the growing line-up of celebrity presenters at this month's Oscars ceremony, organizers said last week.

Zhang, 25, the Chinese star making waves in the United States with roles in films such as Zhang Yimou's Oscar-nominated "House of Flying Daggers" and "Hero," has just finished filming "Memoirs of a Geisha." She has also starred in Hollywood films such as 2001's "Rush Hour 2" and Taiwanese director Ang Lee's mega-hit "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" (2000), winner of four Oscars in 2001.

Cruz, 30, the Spanish ex-sweetheart of Hollywood prince Tom Cruise, will also hand out one of the statuettes that symbolize cinema's highest honors on Feb. 27.

Cruz has starred in films such as "Vanilla Sky (2001)," "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" (2001), and "Blow" (2001) and has just finished making "Bandidas," an action comedy co-starring Mexican star Salma Hayek.

Cruz will be seen next in two upcoming movies, "Don't Move" and "Sahara."

Cruz and Zhang join fellow Oscar presenters Gwyneth Paltrow, Halle Berry and famed director Martin Scorsese.

Also handing out statuettes at the 77th annual Academy Awards will be last year's best actress Oscar winner, South African star Charlize Theron, and 2003 best supporting actress Renee Zellweger.

"Lord of the Rings" star Orlando Bloom has also signed on to hand out "golden guys."

Nominations were announced last week, with "The Aviator" leading the pack with 11 nominations including best picture, best director and best actor for Leonardo DiCaprio.

Eastwood's "Million Dollar Baby" and "Finding Neverland," the story of Peter Pan author J.M. Barrie, were next in the ranking with seven nominations each, including best picture.

The 2005 Oscars will be held in Hollywood's Kodak Theater. *AFP*

6 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE
BEST DIRECTOR
BEST ACTOR
JAMIE FOXX
MTRCB RATING G
FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
WINNER GOLDEN GLOBE AWARD BEST ACTOR
Ray
OPENS FEB. 16
RAY CHARLES

Avril Lavigne performs at Global City

From page A3-1

she become older since then, she's become wiser too.

"I grew up so much in the past two years," says the native of Napanee, Ontario. 'I've been through a lot, I've learned a lot, and experienced a lot, both good and bad."

Almost three years and eight Grammy nominations later, Avril, now 19, still stands out among her cut-and-dried pop star contemporaries with her edgy, guitar-driven pop-rock melodies.

In the Philippines, Avril has become an icon for this generation of teens who have found in her a rallying point for their youthful anguish. Even her older fans have been able to relate to her music.

Fans can expect to rock all night as Avril performs her hit songs like "Sk8r Boi," "I'm With You," "Losing Grip" and "Falling Down." The last was included in the soundtrack of the Reese Witherspoon starrer "Sweet Home Alabama." These are songs that reflect Avril's continued growth as an artist, a fact that is clearly demonstrated in her second album, "Under My Skin," from which she will be performing several cuts as well.

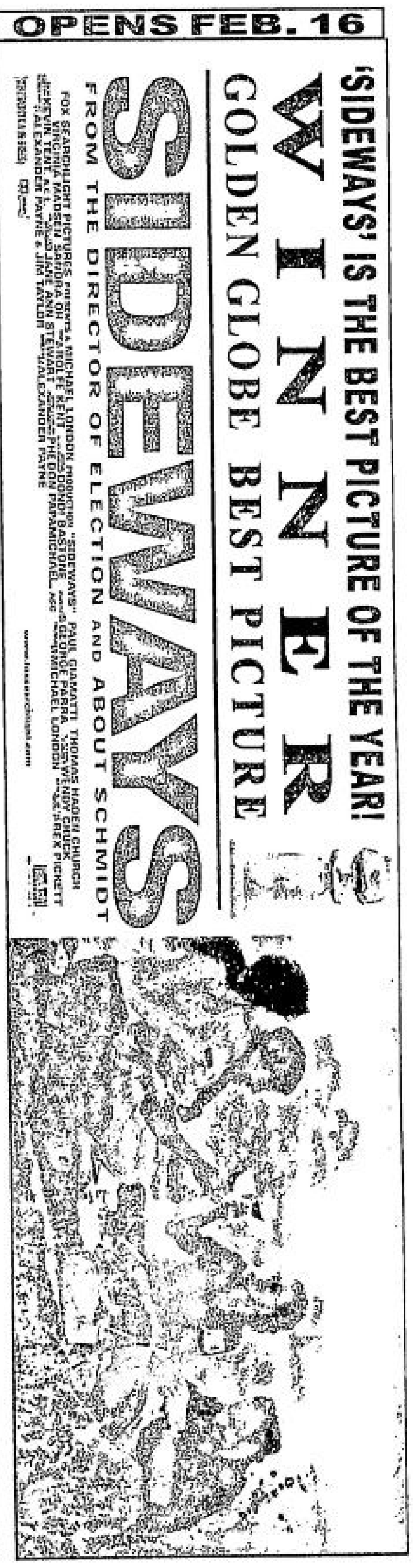
"The songs on 'Under My Skin' are definitely deeper than those on 'Let Go' (her first full-length album, which debuted at number eight on the Billboard charts in June 2002)," she says. "But I still love a good pop song. I'm basically just a girl who likes to write, who likes to rock out, and who wants music to be a part of my life forever."

But she's also excited to be growing in new directions. One result of this new growth is that she has become more critical of herself, musically speaking. On 'Under My Skin,' she was more involved, more hands-on, which she'd never been before with her first album.

"I was involved in every aspect of making this record," she says. "I knew how I wanted the drums, the guitar tones, and the structures to be. I understand the whole process so much better this time because I've been through it. I'm really picky with my sound."

Simple Plan will be performing its own hits such as "Perfect" and "Addicted." The group has just released its sophomore album, "Still Not Getting Any."

Tickets to the Avril Lavigne concert are available at all Ticketworld outlets (National Bookstore).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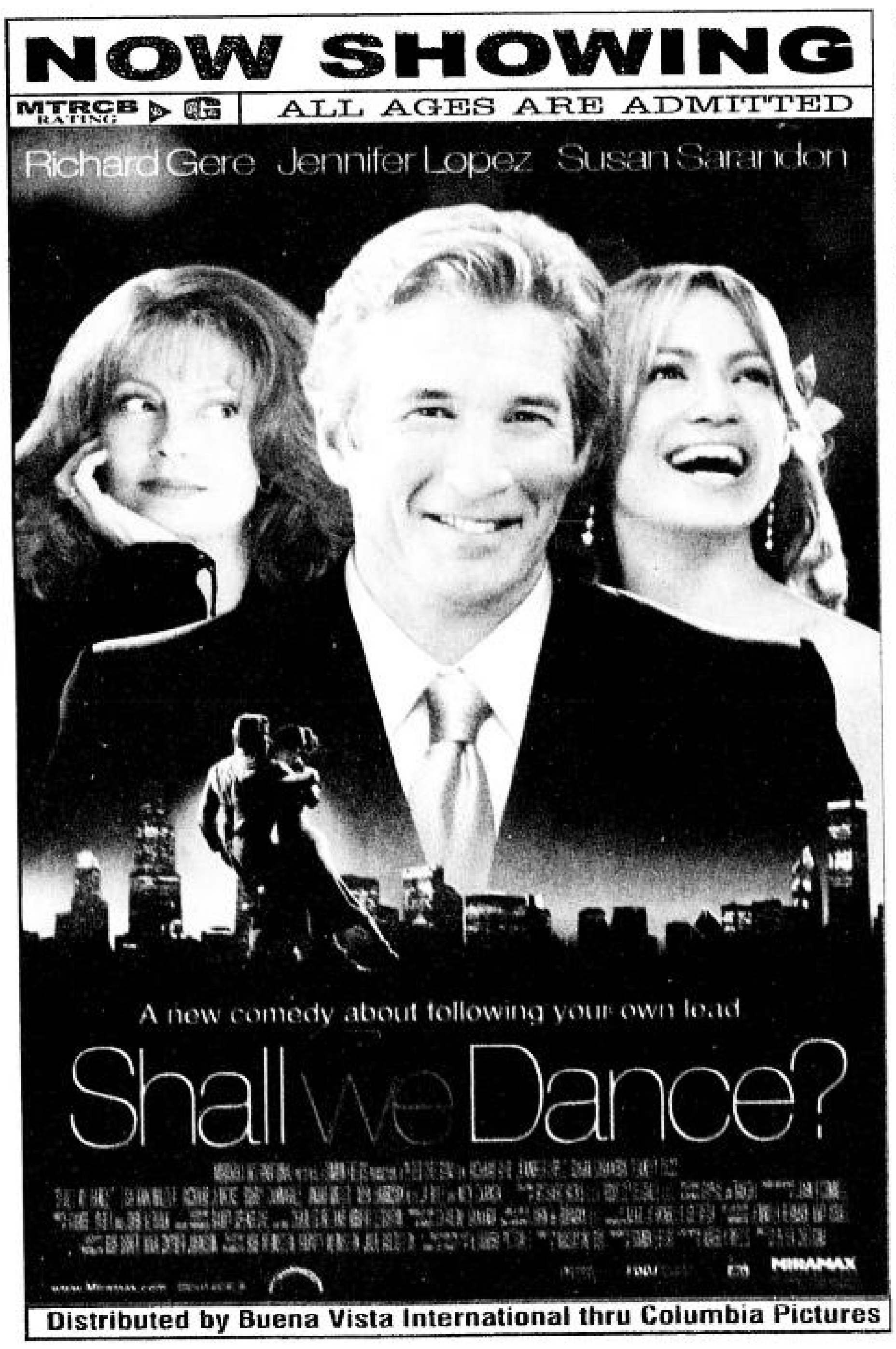
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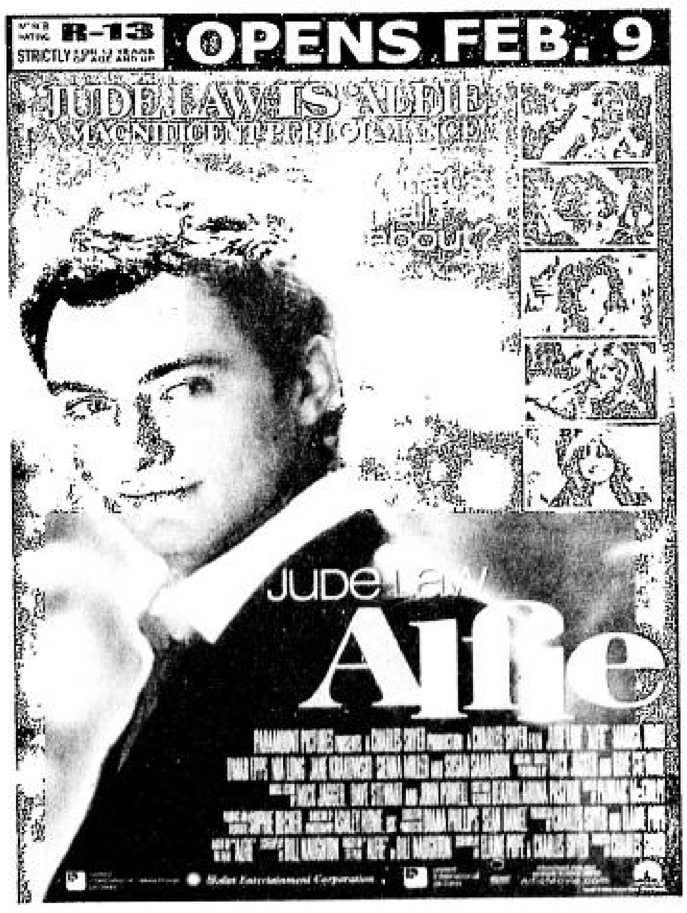
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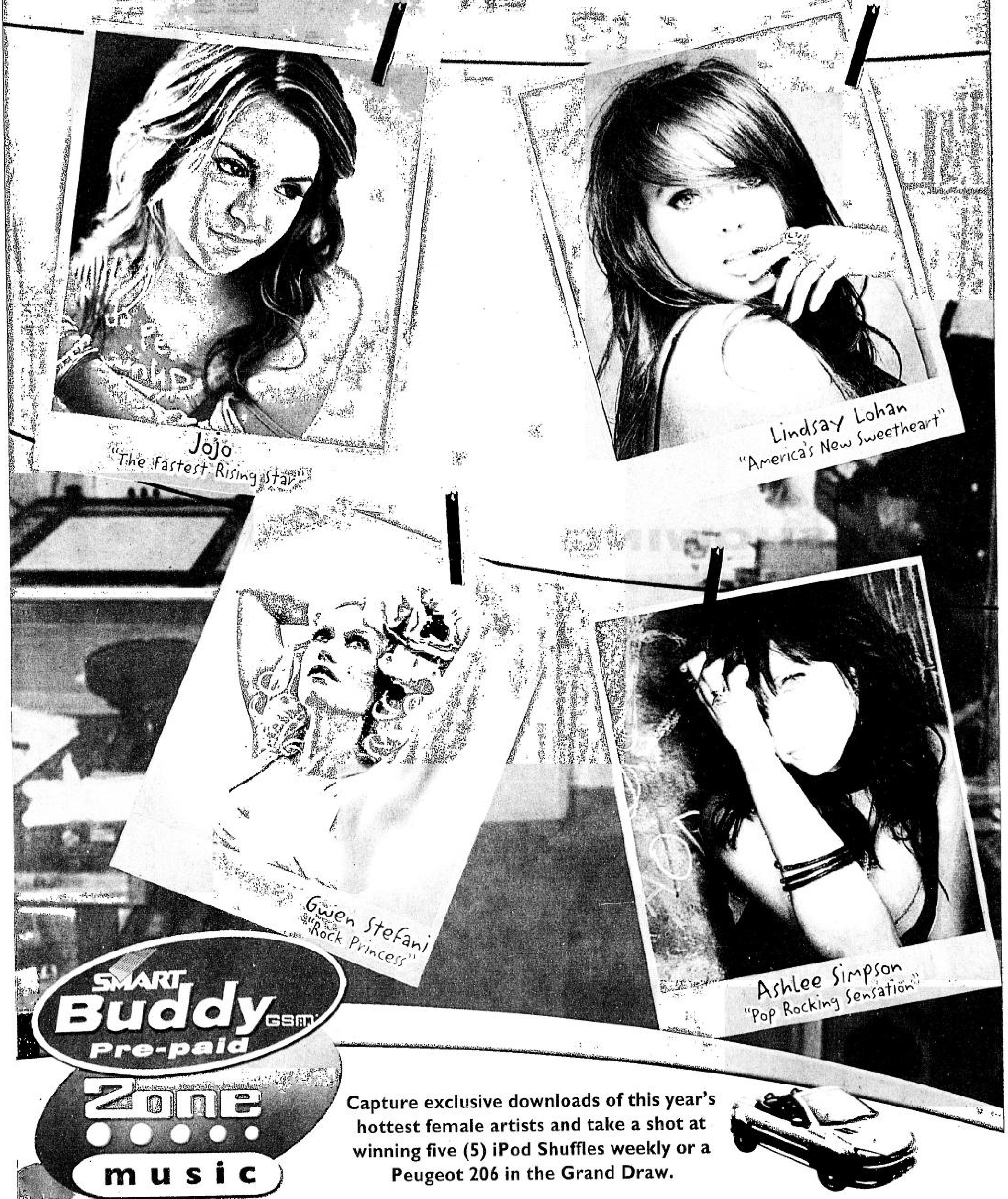
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Song	Artist	Keyword
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Leave (Get Out)	Jojo	STAR2
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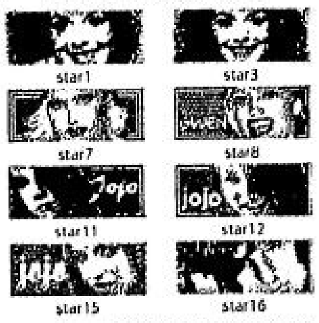
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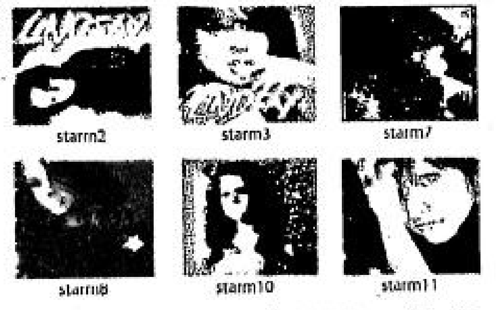
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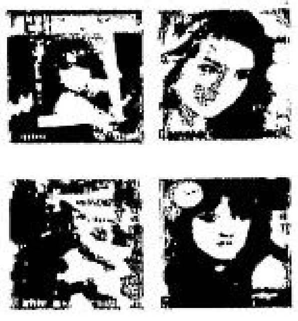

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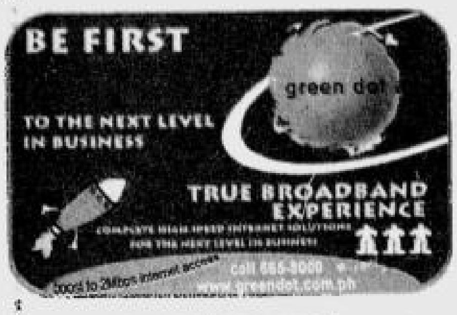
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Fashion scene: Adapt or die

ANNA Antonio of Chocolate

HINDY Weber of Culte Femme

PHOTOS BY ROLLY SOLVEN

VENICE Laurel of House of Laurel

By Emmaruth Gabriel
Contributor

ADAPT or die.

This was the crossroad Carolina Ulang, 53, found herself and her RTW line, Vergel and Carol, in.

Carolina remembers scrimping and saving for years to buy her own sewing machine. Her carpenter-husband pitched his meager savings in with Carolina's to put up Vergel and Carol RTW in Tatala, Binangonan, Rizal.

Tatala is a known area for garment manufacturing in Luzon. At the time she embarked on her dream in 1994, orders for sleepwear, pajamas and night attire slowly trickled in.

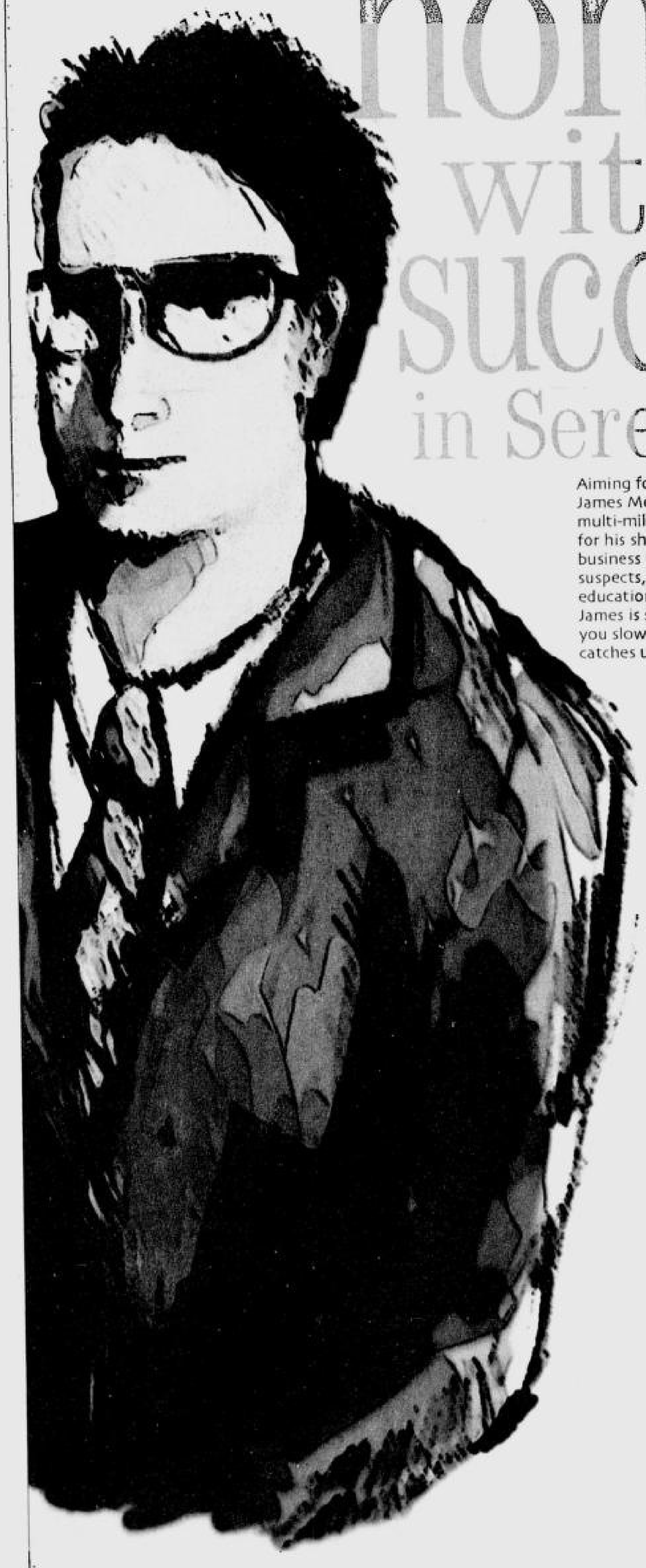
Carolina was able to grow her P5,000 starting capital to P 1,800,000 at the peak of their garment manufacturing business.

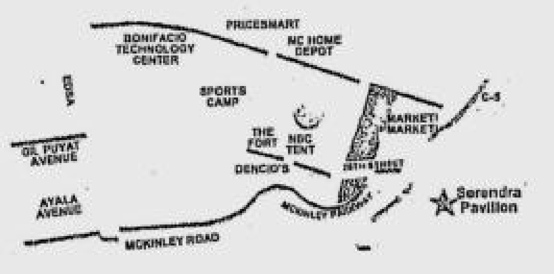
Their lone sewing machine grew to 20. At the peak of manufacturing, Carolina supplied most of the wholesalers in the *tiangges* in Greenhills.

"But the market wanted softer fabrics and different designs," says Carolina. So, shifting materials and redesigning her sleepwear collection, Carolina now is able to sell to a more discriminating clientele in the concrete jungles of Makati.

Angela Atienza on the other hand, noticed the shifting tastes of Manila's fashion set from

FASHION/ B2





At home with success in Serendra

Aiming for the stars is second-nature to James Montecastro. After sealing a multi-million dollar distribution contract for his shipping firm, after snagging the business world spotlight from the usual suspects, after five years of expansion, education, reinvention and evolution, James is still hungry for more. "The day you slow down is the day everyone else catches up," says James.

"That's why the idea of compromise is alien to me," he continues. "Compromise bogs you down. Distracts you from what you already know you really want anyway."

It's that same single-mindedness, that same clarity of thought that brought James to our doorstep.

"I didn't want to "settle down," I wanted to be mobile, within striking distance of the business world. But I also knew I needed to prepare for the future. Serendra was a sublime solution to all that."

Accessibility aside, the high ceilings were among the first things to catch Mr. Montecastro's eye. "The last thing I'd want is to feel cramped. There's no point in paying millions only to end up claustrophobic."

"And I love how much pride they take in their work. Would you believe they even have 3 layers of inspection before they turn over even a single unit? It's a work ethic after my own heart!"

"Of course it's a bit pricier than some other projects by some other developers," James muses "but nothing truly excellent ever comes cheap."

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Fashion scene: Adapt or die

From page B1

RTW to one-of-a-kind items scoured from the souks and flea markets of Asia.

Atienza, the enterprising co-owner of Nullah, a fashion house specializing in imported and highly embellished jeans, blouses and everything orientalia, grew her store from one to two outlets in a year.

This Christmas, she projects stocking up to almost P4 million worth of inventory to meet her market's demand for her luxe oriental-inspired wares. The secret to her success is price points.

"You can walk in with P2,000 and come out with a top, a skirt and slippers," illustrates Atienza. Her buying trips are done efficiently abroad and she deals directly with wholesalers or manufacturers of clothes in Chiangmai and Vietnam.

Trend spotting, a key success factor in the fashion scene, has been mastered by Hindy Weber-Tantoco of Culte Femme. Her brand has "been doing so well, she has rolled out four stores," according to Tetch Tabuena, merchandising division head of Rustan's.

Hindy created hip, young and fresh takes on classic pieces. Her masterful use of mixed materials like suede on hounds tooth fabric, satin on jeans and metallic figure hugging tops made it a lot fun being a girl these days.

Her look can be best described as sexy strong—apt for today's young upwardly mobile women.

"Everyone's penny pinching. Culte Femme offers imported quality and fabrics at reasonable prices," explains Tantoco when asked what sets her brand apart.

At the time she was being interviewed, Tantoco has already started on her July collection. "You have to prepare to invest at least four to six season's (worth) of capital," advises Tantoco to maximize profits.

The competition among brands is cutthroat. Her Culte Femme line sits comfortably beside bigger American and European labels. "Our sales are computed on a per square meter basis," adds Tantoco.

Ana Amigo-Antonio of Chocolate Clothing Company has to agree on the competitiveness of the fashion business in the Philippines. Peddling her Australian labeled Grab jeans three years ago, Antonio did not anticipate she would be covering most of Manila's well-set behinds.

Today, Chocolate Clothing Company has grown to a P40-million enterprise in three years. "We just opened a store in Davao City," beams Antonio.

From a hole-in-the-wall space in a department store, Antonio has rolled out stores in Galleria, Rockwell, Rustan's, Megamall, Alabang and Malate. The once all-jeans store is now a one-stop-shop for feminine inspired but comfortable tees and blouses, skirts, culottes and other fashion accessories. Hip house brands from Australia like Grab jeans, Endless Spirit and Earth Angel have a following among the teenage to early thirty-something.

"Buying season in Australia would consist of four trips a year. I adopt the shallow and wide philosophy in merchandising. Not much quantities per style but I make sure there are at least 300 styles," explains Antonio. She swears by her retail formula—a ratio of three tops per bottom. And it is important to make customers feel happy they are parting with their money," adds Antonio. Her staff attends to loyal customers who have been patronizing Chocolate products since she started. "With the economic situation in the Philippines, I can't mark up too much. I'm $20 less than in Australia but I sacrifice that," advises Antonio.

Creating her own market segment was the sure-fire formula designer Sam Laurel stumbled upon when she started designing clothes for pregnant women. Her Nine and Nine Months line is displayed at the House of Laurel in Makati. She credits the rigid training under Rajo Laurel as her inspiration.

"He is the creative director and all designs go through him," says Laurel. Surprisingly, Rajos' clients coming in for debutante gowns have spilled over to becoming Sam's clients as the years go by. In the evolving world of Rajo's clients, it was necessary to open a maternity line since his debutantes turned into brides who then turned into expectant mothers. Nine and Nine Months sell on the average a hundred pieces per month. One client can come in and buy around P30,000 (eight outfits) a day. Clients belong to the upper A and B classes, who would not flinch at buying a minimum of two to a maximum of eight outfits in a single purchase. What sets Sam Laurel's designs apart form the blasé maternity clothes are the intricate beadwork, almost couture-like quality of maternity tops and bottoms. Venice Laurel-Hermano, operations and production head of the House of Laurel credit her smartly outfitted children's line as another attraction of the one-stop-couture shop. "We're very happy. We are not multimillionaires but we've made a lot of women happy in two months," beams Venice.

Despite the economic and fiscal difficulties being experienced by the nation, Manila's hemlines continue to stay up, adapting beautifully to the idiosyncrasies of the economy.

Sunshine spot

ACCORDING to a recent paper by author Aletha Ma.I-Transporte on the "IR/HR Implications in the Garments Industry Resulting from the Philippines Commitment to the WTO, the Philippine garment industry started as a cottage industry in the late 1940s.

The early '70s became the golden age of the garment industry. This was the trend for the next 10 years, catapulting garment exporters to the world market.

By the 1980s, the structural adjustments program implemented by the government in line with shifting trade policies from trade protectionism to trade liberalization served as an incentive for foreign countries to increase their investments, encouraging local manufacturers to join the fray.

Today, the Philippine economic team has identified the fashion garments and jewelry as the sunshine spots in the economy. A Magna Carta for Small Enterprises passed in 1997 is helping accelerate the garment industry.

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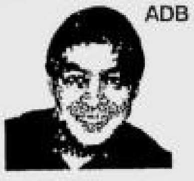

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Bacolod City
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Testing Officer, Guidance Center
University of St. La Salle
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Tel: +034 434-6865
Email: admit@usls.edu.ph

Baguio City
Ms Angelita A Padilla
Guidance Director
Baguio Colleges Foundation
Gov. Pack Road cor. Harrison Rd.
2600 Baguio City
Tel: +074 442-2564, 442-3316
Fax: +074 442-6268
Email: webmaster@bcf.edu.ph

Cagayan de Oro City
Ms Flordeliza A. Velez
Testing Officer
Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan, Cagayan de Oro
Tel. +08822 856-3116 ext. 2064
+08822 723-116 ext. 2054
Fax: +08822 727-163
Email: floranvel@yahoo.com

Cebu City
Mrs Remedios A. Baculao
Psychometrician, Testing Center
University of San Carlos
P. del Rosario St., Cebu City 6000
Telefax: +032 253-1000 ext. 181
Email: testing@pinya.usc.edu.ph

Davao City
Ms Paulita C Sorongon
Guidance Counselor
Ateneo de Davao University
Jacinto St., Davao City
Telefax: +082 221-2411 ext. 8309
Email: sorongon@magisx.addu.edu.ph

Dumaguete City
Ms Violeta H. Toves
Psychometrician
Siliman University
Dumaguete City
Tel: +035 422-6002 ext. 337
Fax +035 422-6002 ext. 330
Email: spo@su.edu.ph

Iloilo City
Dr Fely David
Dean, Graduate School
Central Philippine University
Telefax: +033 329-0418
Email: fpd_grad@cpu.edu.ph

Legazpi City
Mr Carlos Ante
College of Commerce
Divine Word College
Tel: +052 820-1849
+052 820-4128 ext. 30
Fax: +052 480-2146
Email: chitante@yahoo.com

Naga City
Ms Ma Regina Pamela Y. Rosales
Director and Psychometrician
Ateneo de Naga University
Ateneo Ave., Naga City
Tel. +054 472-2368 ext. 2315
Email: pam@adnu.edu.ph

Tagbilaran City
Fr Romeo P Bancale, SVD, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Holy Name University
cor. Lesague and Gallares St.,
Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Tel. +038 411-3432
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Zamboanga City
Ms Norma Baluca
Director
Center for Testing and Measurment
Ateneo de Zamboanga
La Purisima St.
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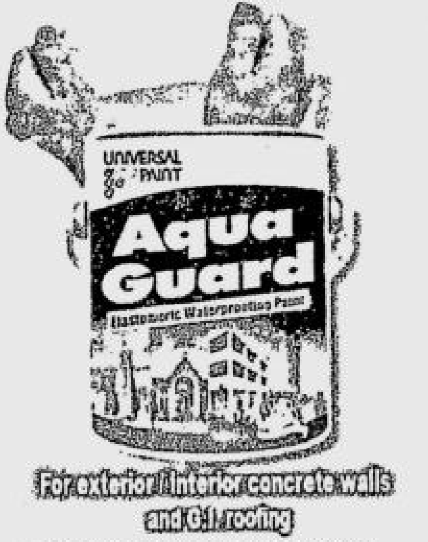

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VICTORIAS
MILLING COMPANY, INC

NOTICE
OF POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

To All Stockholders:

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual Stockholders' Meeting** of **Victorias Milling Company, Inc.** previously scheduled on **1 March 2005**, has been postponed by the Board of Directors to **1 April 2005 at 9:00 in the morning.**

Formal notice and agenda for the meeting shall be published later.

(Sgd.) SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR.
Corporate Secretary

THE GRAND PHILIPPINE LA
ENEOS
MANILA CLUB

JAPAN'S TOP LUBRICANT NOW IN RP

Manila Polo Club sizzled during the recent power launch of Eneos, engine lubricants of Japan's biggest oil company Nippon Oil. Arturo Tanyag, president and CEO of Delta Japan Oil Products Corp., the exclusive distributor of Eneos in the country assures: "More than being best suited for Japanese cars, Eneos surpasses and outperforms any of the current leading brands in the market today." The general manager of Nippon Oil Corp., Yasushi Kono also expressed excitement on the alliance between the two countries. "We expect a bright future for Eneos in the Philippine market," he said. Eneos' full line of engine lubricants, which is No. 1 in Japan, will very soon make its presence felt in the Philippines.

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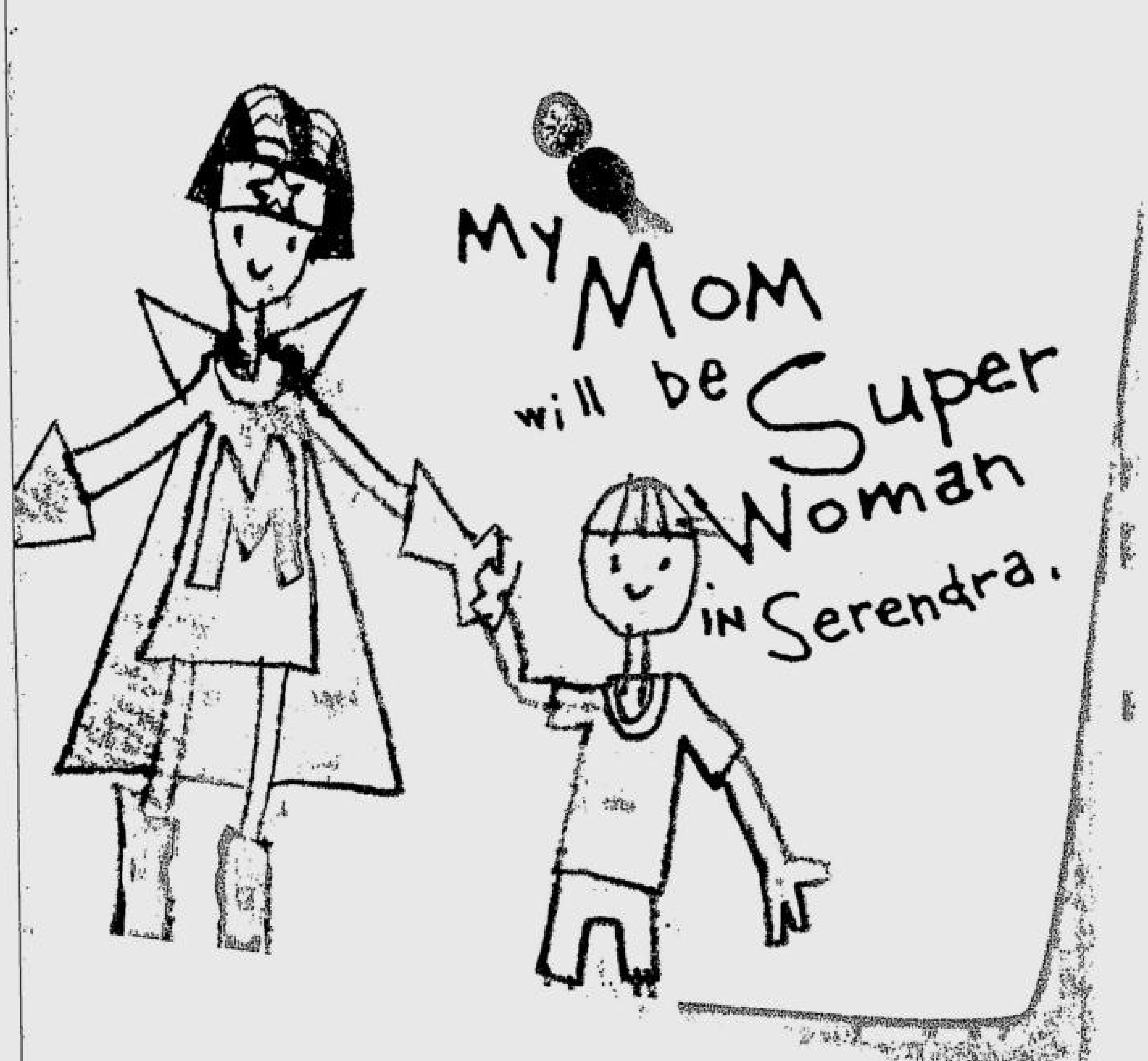
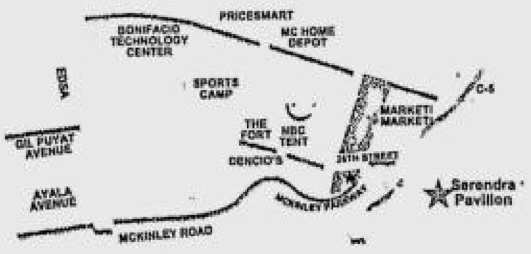

My Mom will be Super Woman in Serendra.



Ever since he can remember, 6-year old Arnie has known this for a fact: his mom Patricia is actually Wonder Woman. "She's sooo cool!", Arnie gushes. Seems his mom is always there when he needs her. And never (or so he says) runs out of steam. But then he spills the beans on a bigger bombshell. "You know, my mom's powers are growing. Yup! Soon, she will become Superwoman!" Now, that sounds infinitely more interesting. (A young, charming, and mild-mannered executive creative director in one of the country's top advertising agencies, Patricia certainly could look the part.) And what do you suppose made Arnie think that? Well, it seems mom herself has been telling him about her new-found super powers. And it all came together when she found this land of super heroes called Serendra.

The name itself conjures images of fantasy and magic for Arnie. Serendra. Endless expanses of green. Enchanted trees. Vast playgrounds where Arnie and his friends can ramble. A place where the very earth is charged with stupendous energy. Stuff that will help his mom acquire incredible super powers.

And help her do things she never could have done before. Things Arnie himself never thought possible.

For starters, his mom will have super speed. She'll be able to drop him and big sister off to school and dad to work every morning, and still be the first one in at her office in Makati. "She will be able to shop for anything we need - faster than a speeding bullet." And then his mom will have super strength. "Mom said when we move to Serendra, she can get home early and help us with our schoolwork, even if she's got tons of work. She'll even cook my favorite fried chicken for dinner. And play hide-and-seek all night long.".

Super-speed? Super-strength? We may never really know. One thing's for sure, though. Now that Patricia and her family are moving to Serendra, she can become Superwoman to her kid forever. A premier residential development from Ayala Land, Serendra is just a heartbeat away from the business hub of Makati, yet isolated enough from the cares of the city. Where a kid's imagination can fly from Krypton to planet Earth in the blink of an eye. And mom and dad's super powers can multiply a hundred-fold.

This world sure is crying out for heroes.
Like Patricia, maybe it's time you heed the call.

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With about 65% of its 12 hectares devoted to pristine greenery, Serendra is truly a kid's wonderland. A veritable playground where children can roam free. A nature sanctuary where they can learn first-hand about the glory of creation. Situated in the heart of Bonifacio Global City, Serendra has sprawling gardens, tree-lined walkways, wading pools, playgrounds, and charming residential units that marry European-inspired masterplanning and Filipino warmth and sensibility. You'll also find game rooms, restaurants, multi-purpose courts, and a promenade. It's near several prestigious schools, hospitals, and some of the world's best shopping as well.

Where other residential properties force you to choose between accessibility and space, Serendra gives you both and more. It's far enough from the daily grind to make you forget the tedium of the rat race. Near enough to make sure families have more time together. And spacious enough to make sure such moments are enjoyed to the full.

Now you don't need to go far to get away from it all. Serendra gives you all the perks of suburban living right at the heart of the metropolis. Your kid will surely claim it as his playground. And you will be proud to call it your home.

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Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Pavilion, 26th Street,Bonifacio Global City,everyday from 9 am to 8 pm. HLURB License to Sell No.: 10412, 10464 and 10482.

People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

'Text and Charge' with your G-Plan

FOR THE fast-paced, go-getting Filipinos of today, the traditional method of settling monthly phone bills by cash or check is an inconvenience to the mobile lifestyle they have grown accustomed to. Innovations leader Globe Handyphone introduces another first to address this need - a pioneering payment scheme that lets them settle accounts anytime, anywhere!

Developed in partnership with Bankard Inc and Jade Pacific Telecom, Globe Text and Charge allows G-Plan, G-Flex and Globe Platinum subscribers to charge their mobile phone bills to any local Mastercard, Visa or JCB card through a convenient and easy-to-use two-step texting process. Not only does Text and Charge eliminate the time-consuming task of paying by cash or check, these payments also qualify for reward points offered by the various participating credit card companies.

To avail of the service, subscribers must first register their credit card of choice by sending "PLANREG <card number> <expiry date: MMYY> <birthdate: MMDDYYYY> <mother's maiden name>" to 2201. They will then receive a four-character password to ensure the security of succeeding payment transactions.

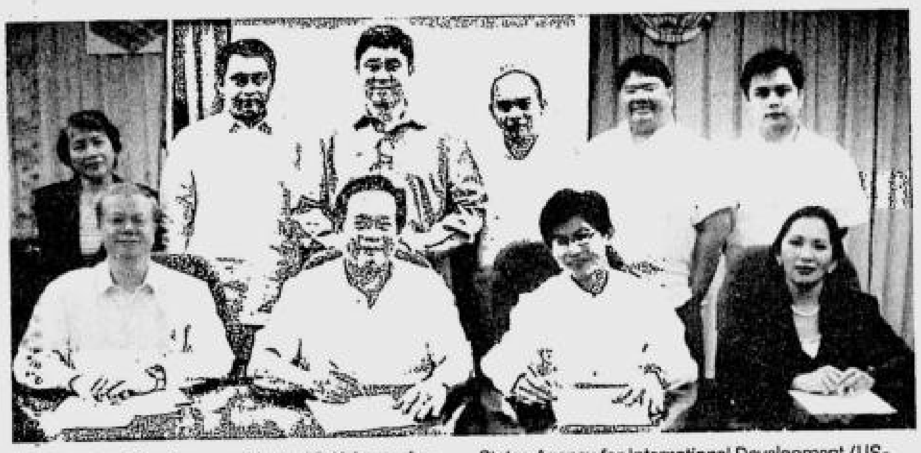
After registration, subscribers can begin paying for their own Globe Handyphone bill by sending "PLANPAY <password> <last three digits at the back of card> <amount>" to 2201. Subscribers must respond to the confirmation message within three minutes to continue the transaction by sending "PLANCONFIRM" to 2201. They may also pay for their loved ones' Globe Handyphone bills by sending "PLANPAY <password> <last three digits at the back of card> <amount> <11-digit mobile number of target subscriber>" to 2201. A minimal fee of P2.50 will be charged per transaction.

Globe Text and Charge is the first service of its kind in the country to date, following on the heels of the successful introduction of AutoloadMax via Credit Card, which was widely received by Globe Prepaid subscribers. Indeed, Globe Handyphone takes pride in pioneering services that meet the demands of the growing mobile market, and Filipinos can look forward to more exciting innovations in the coming months.

Jade Pacific Telecom
GLOBE TELECOM
BANKARD
MOA Signing

PRESENT at the MOA signing were: (standing, from left) Jade Group's Raymond Nocon, Bankard's Irene Taylo and Elizabeth Legarda, Jade Group's Chuck Nocon, and Globe Telecom's Joanna Africa, Justin Sales and Jil Go. Seated are Jade Group president and CEO Carlos Nocon, Globe Telecom wireless business head Ferdz dela Cruz and Bankard Inc Joven Reyes.

G-Cash facilitates fast and easy loan payment



JOSE Robert Mendoza, president of G-Xchange Inc, (seated, second from right) and Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) president Senen Glorioso (seated, second from left) sign a memorandum of understanding to pilot-test the use of G-Cash as a means for collection and payment of loans from rural banks. Also in photo are: John Owens, chief of party of the Microenterprise Access to Banking Services (MABS) program (seated, extreme left), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) cognizant technical officer Teresita Espenilla (seated, extreme right), and (standing, from left) MABS deputy chief of party Meliza Agabin, RBAP corporate secretary Mark Ernest Rosario, RBAP treasurer Jobel Chua, MABS MIS specialist Nixon Mahilum, MABS MIS manager Anthony Petalcorin, and Globe Telecom business development manager for M-Commerce Roy James Villanueva.

GLOBE Telecom recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) to pilot-test the use of Globe's G-Cash service as a means of payment and collection for microcredit loans. Under the project, participating RBAP member banks will be able to disburse and collect loan payments via G-Cash. The project will be implemented in coordination with RBAP through the Microentreprise Access to Banking Services Program (MABS), which is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

G-Cash is Globe's revolutionary service category that allows mobile phone users to send and receive cash values, pay for purchases, or send remittances, all through text (SMS). It is already accepted as payment in several major commercial establishments and is easily converted into actual cash. Now, G-cash can make it easier for people in rural areas to avail of loans from rural banks, which they can then use as capital in setting up small businesses.

An estimated 20 percent of all Filipino households depend on income from microenterprises (such as cottage industries, small-scale trade and services) for their livelihood. For most of these small entrepreneurs, rural banks provide the easiest and most convenient means of access to much-needed financial services, including loans and credit services that are crucial in helping them set up and maintain their businesses. Because of this, both the government and private sectors view the microfinance services provided by rural banks as a vital component of a stable economy.

With G-Cash as the means of payment, rural folk will have a more convenient way of repaying their loans without having to travel considerable distances. This innovation will also help rural banks provide better and more efficient microfinance services in rural areas, since disbursement and collection of loans will be made much easier, faster, and safer by using G-Cash.

Joey Mendoza, president of G-Xchange Inc (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom) suggests that the pilot project can be used as a model for microfinance programs not only in the Philippines but in other developing countries as well. "This project is in line with Globe's commitment to support the development of our economy, particularly of rural areas, and the empowerment of more Filipinos through communications technology," . Mendoza says.

Carmina topbills first-ever 'Kilikili Monologues'

FOR DECADES, Filipino women have been engaged in an unspoken struggle to make their underarms light and smooth while they suffer in silence from the consequences of plucking and shaving. But now a new movement is on the rise, seeking to free women from dark irritated underarms through "Under-harm Freedom with Rexona Pro Balance," an innovative campaign from Rexona, the trusted deodorant expert.

Rexona
pro balance
with Sunflower Oil
I am Under-harm Free!
The Kili-Kili Monologues

The "Under-harm Freedom with Rexona Pro Balance" campaign aims to educate women about the consequences of plucking and shaving as well as provide them with the solution through the Philippine premiere of the "Kilikili Monologues," a brave and humorous look at women's futile attempts to maintain their underarms and how this takes a toll on their emotional well-being. In the Kilikili Monologues, Carmina Villaroel and a celebrity cast break their silence as they epitomize the struggle of Filipinas who need to pluck and shave their way to clean, beautiful underarms.

The show features the witty ensemble of Gladys Guevarra, Marissa Sanchez, Eugene Domingo and campaign spokesperson Carmina Villaroel. Women from all walks of life can surely relate to each character's dilemma. Budding diva Minerva learns too late that first impressions go a long way in show business, while working girl Lea's underarm issues get the better of her during an important meeting. Meanwhile, Elsa the housewife receives sympathetic nods when she woefully narrates how her dark and irritated underarms have made her less attractive to her husband.

"Women should not suffer in silence because they have dark and irritated underarms," says Carmina, who fearlessly shares her personal experience in Kilikili Monologues. "That's why I'm taking an active role in helping educate women on proper underarm care." More than just an entertaining journey into the uncharted territory of the female underarm psyche, Kilikili Monologues provides women of all ages with answers to their qualms and queries about underarm darkness.

"Rexona understands every woman's desire to have light and smooth underarms despite the inevitable act of plucking and shaving," says Franz Decloedt, Rexona brand manager. "Rexona Pro Balance was developed to specifically address that need." New Rexona Pro Balance contains Sunflower Oil, which is naturally rich in Vitamin E, Linoleic Acid and Glycerin, which protect sensitive underarm skin from the irritation, dryness and subsequent darkness that result from frequent plucking and shaving.

Catch the Philippine premiere of the Kilikili Monologues as part of the "Under-harm Freedom with Rexona Pro Balance" campaign, in select malls, schools and universities in the coming months. Now, women can have lighter, smoother underarms in just 4 weeks with new Rexona Pro Balance!

Product FILES

Under-harm freedom with new Rexona Pro Balance

NO MATTER how strict their beauty regimen is, most women still miss out on one important beauty spot - the underarms. Many Filipinas suffer from skin irritations and even hyperpigmentation, or the darkening of the underarms. These are real serious problems that plague women of all ages, posing a real threat to their confidence and self-esteem. Many remain in the dark about what exactly causes this underarm malady. Blame it on genetics or hormonal imbalance, but usually it is the female practice of plucking and shaving that causes underarms to become darker.

"Underarm skin is just as sensitive as the skin on our face. Just a little pressure or friction on the epidermis may harm the skin", says noted dermatologist Dr. Gertrude P. Chan, president of the Philippine Dermatological Research and Testing Foundation. "Plucking and shaving, may actually strip away the skin's natural moisture, leaving underarms dry, irritated and may end up with darker than the natural skin tone", she adds.

Fortunately, Rexona has come up with a new variant that can help free women from underarm-harm, with the new Rexona Pro Balance with Sunflower Oil. Inspired by the natural properties of the Sunflower, a rich source of Vitamin E that nourishes and heals skin, new Rexona Pro Balance works to moisturize and soften the underarms even after plucking and shaving. Its special formulation of Linoleic Acid protects skin from abrasions, while glycerin helps bring back the lost moisture. With regular use, New Rexona Pro Balance with Sunflower Oil lightens and smoothens plucked or shaved underarms in just 4 weeks.

Alongside this innovative product, Rexona encourages Filipinas to live an under-harm free life through the "Under-harm Freedom with Rexona Pro Balance" campaign. It's a series of fun, interactive, and informative activities designed to help enlighten women about proper underarm care.

Rexona
24HR PROTECTION
pro balance

OVALTINE PROACTIVE: BEST FOR YOUNG ADULTS

An Ovaltine ProActive Girl hands out an Ovaltine ProActive sachet to a young employee at the Union Bank main office in Makati. An Ovaltine Team has been touring offices to brief young adults on the benefit of drinking Ovaltine ProActive. Aside from its delicious taste, Ovaltine ProActive contains Mind-Enhancers and Body Optimizers packed in the Amino Pro-B formula, a unique combination of Amino Acids and Vitamin B Complex which enables young adults to restore tired muscles, cope with stress and get ready for unplanned events

Greater social responsibility for privileged few in grad school

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"The coincidence of three future presidents crossing paths on our campus is not the norm," DeGoia said. "Colleges and universities have long been places where people around the world have gathered to pursue knowledge and learn about and from each other. Whether or not they ever take the helm of their governments, the educational experience prepares them for personal careers and enriches their understanding of the diverse forces—economic, cultural, political and religious—that shape them as individuals."

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

'Text and Charge' with your G-Plan

FOR THE fast-paced, go-getting Filipinos of today, the traditional method of settling monthly phone bills by cash or check is an inconvenience to the mobile lifestyle they have grown accustomed to. Innovations leader Globe Handyphone introduces another first to address this need - a pioneering payment scheme that lets them settle accounts anytime, anywhere!

Developed in partnership with Bankard Inc and Jade Pacific Telecom, Globe Text and Charge allows G-Plan, G-Flex and Globe Platinum subscribers to charge their mobile phone bills to any local Mastercard, Visa or JCB card through a convenient and easy-to-use two-step texting process. Not only does Text and Charge eliminate the time-consuming task of paying by cash or check, these payments also qualify for reward points offered by the various participating credit card companies.

To avail of the service, subscribers must first register their credit card of choice by sending "PLANREG <card number> <expiry date: MMYY> <birthdate: MMDDYYYY> <mother's maiden name>" to 2201. They will then receive a four-character password to ensure the security of succeeding payment transactions.

After registration, subscribers can begin paying for their own Globe Handyphone bill by sending "PLANPAY <password> <last three digits at the back of card> <amount>" to 2201. Subscribers must respond to the confirmation message within three minutes to continue the transaction by sending "PLANCONFIRM" to 2201. They may also pay for their loved ones' Globe Handyphone bills by sending "PLANPAY <password> <last three digits at the back of card> <amount> <11-digit mobile number of target subscriber>" to 2201. A minimal fee of P2.50 will be charged per transaction.

Globe Text and Charge is the first service of its kind in the country to date, following on the heels of the successful introduction of Autoload-Max via Credit Card, which was widely received by Globe Prepaid subscribers. Indeed, Globe Handyphone takes pride in pioneering services that meet the demands of the growing mobile market, and Filipinos can look forward to more exciting innovations in the coming months.

Jade Pacific Telecom
GLOBE TELECOM
BANKARD A YGC Member
MOA Signing

PRESENT at the MOA signing were: (standing, from left) Jade Group's Raymond Nocon, Bankard's Irene Taylo and Elizabeth Legarda, Jade Group's Chuck Nocon, and Globe Telecom's Joanna Africa, Justin Sales and Jil Go. Seated are Jade Group president and CEO Carlos Nocon, Globe Telecom wireless business head Ferdz dela Cruz and Bankard Inc Joven Reyes.

JOSE Robert Mendoza, president of G-Xchange Inc, (seated, second from right) and Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) president Senen Glorioso (seated, second from left) sign a memorandum of understanding to pilot-test the use of G-Cash as a means for collection and payment of loans from rural banks. Also in photo are: John Owens, chief of party of the Microenterprise Access to Banking Services (MABS) program (seated, extreme left), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) cognizant technical officer Teresita Espenilla (seated, extreme right), and (standing, from left) MABS deputy chief of party Meliza Agabin, RBAP corporate secretary Mark Ernest Rosario, RBAP treasurer Jobel Chua, MABS MIS specialist Nixon Mahilum, MABS MIS manager Anthony Petalcorin, and Globe Telecom business development manager for M-Commerce Roy James Villanueva.

G-Cash facilitates fast and easy loan payment

GLOBE Telecom recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) to pilot-test the use of Globe's G-Cash service as a means of payment and collection for microcredit loans. Under the project, participating RBAP member banks will be able to disburse and collect loan payments via G-Cash. The project will be implemented in coordination with RBAP through the Microentreprise Access to Banking Services Program (MABS), which is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

G-Cash is Globe's revolutionary service category that allows mobile phone users to send and receive cash values, pay for purchases, or send remittances, all through text (SMS). It is already accepted as payment in several major commercial establishments and is easily converted into actual cash. Now, G-cash can make it easier for people in rural areas to avail of loans from rural banks, which they can then use as capital in setting up small businesses.

An estimated 20 percent of all Filipino households depend on income from microenterprises (such as cottage industries, small-scale trade and services) for their livelihood. For most of these small entrepreneurs, rural banks provide the easiest and most convenient means of access to much-needed financial services, including loans and credit services that are crucial in helping them set up and maintain their businesses. Because of this, both the government and private sectors view the microfinance services provided by rural banks as a vital component of a stable economy.

With G-Cash as the means of payment, rural folk will have a more convenient way of repaying their loans without having to travel considerable distances. This innovation will also help rural banks provide better and more efficient microfinance services in rural areas, since disbursement and collection of loans will be made much easier, faster, and safer by using G-Cash.

Joey Mendoza, president of G-Xchange Inc (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom) suggests that the pilot project can be used as a model for microfinance programs not only in the Philippines but in other developing countries as well. "This project is in line with Globe's commitment to support the development of our economy, particularly of rural areas, and the empowerment of more Filipinos through communications technology," . Mendoza says.

Carmina topbills first-ever 'Kilikili Monologues'

FOR DECADES, Filipino women have been engaged in an unspoken struggle to make their underarms light and smooth while they suffer in silence from the consequences of plucking and shaving. But now a new movement is on the rise, seeking to free women from dark irritated underarms through "Under-harm Freedom with Rexona Pro Balance," an innovative campaign from Rexona, the trusted deodorant expert.

The "Under-harm Freedom with Rexona Pro Balance" campaign aims to educate women about the consequences of plucking and shaving as well as provide them with the solution through the Philippine premiere of the "Kilikili Monologues," a brave and humorous look at women's futile attempts to maintain their underarms and how this takes a toll on their emotional well-being. In the Kilikili Monologues, Carmina Villaroel and a celebrity cast break their silence as they epitomize the struggle of Filipinas who need to pluck and shave their way to clean, beautiful underarms.

The show features the witty ensemble of Gladys Guevarra, Marissa Sanchez, Eugene Domingo and campaign spokesperson Carmina Villaroel. Women from all walks of life can surely relate to each character's dilemma. Budding diva Minerva learns too late that first impressions go a long way in show business, while working girl Lea's underarm issues get the better of her during an important meeting. Meanwhile, Elsa the housewife receives sympathetic nods when she woefully narrates how her dark and irritated underarms have made her less attractive to her husband.

Rexona
pro balance
I am Under-harm Free!
The Kili-Kili Monologues

"Women should not suffer in silence because they have dark and irritated underarms," says Carmina, who fearlessly shares her personal experience in Kilikili Monologues. "That's why I'm taking an active role in helping educate women on proper underarm care." More than just an entertaining journey into the uncharted territory of the female underarm psyche, Kilikili Monologues provides women of all ages with answers to their qualms and queries about underarm darkness.

"Rexona understands every woman's desire to have light and smooth underarms despite the inevitable act of plucking and shaving," says Franz Decloedt, Rexona brand manager. "Rexona Pro Balance was developed to specifically address that need." New Rexona Pro Balance contains Sunflower Oil, which is naturally rich in Vitamin E, Linoleic Acid and Glycerin, which protect sensitive underarm skin from the irritation, dryness and subsequent darkness that result from frequent plucking and shaving.

Catch the Philippine premiere of the Kilikili Monologues as part of the "Under-harm Freedom with Rexona Pro Balance" campaign, in select malls, schools and universities in the coming months. Now, women can have lighter, smoother underarms in just 4 weeks with new Rexona Pro Balance!

ProductFILES

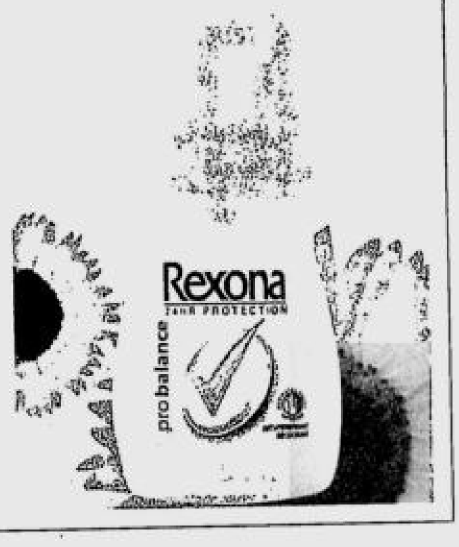
Under-harm freedom with new Rexona Pro Balance

NO MATTER how strict their beauty regimen is, most women still miss out on one important beauty spot - the underarms. Many Filipinas suffer from skin irritations and even hyperpigmentation, or the darkening of the underarms. These are real serious problems that plague women of all ages, posing a real threat to their confidence and self-esteem. Many remain in the dark about what exactly causes this underarm malady. Blame it on genetics or hormonal imbalance, but usually it is the female practice of plucking and shaving that causes underarms to become darker.

"Underarm skin is just as sensitive as the skin on our face. Just a little pressure or friction on the epidermis may harm the skin", says noted dermatologist Dr. Gertrude P. Chan, president of the Philippine Dermatological Research and Testing Foundation. "Plucking and shaving, may actually strip away the skin's natural moisture, leaving underarms dry, irritated and may end up with darker than the natural skin tone", she adds.

Fortunately, Rexona has come up with a new variant that can help free women from underarm-harm, with the new Rexona Pro Balance with Sunflower Oil. Inspired by the natural properties of the Sunflower, a rich source of Vitamin E that nourishes and heals skin, new Rexona Pro Balance works to moisturize and soften the underarms even after plucking and shaving. Its special formulation of Linoleic Acid protects skin from abrasions, while glycerin helps bring back the lost moisture. With regular use, New Rexona Pro Balance with Sunflower Oil lightens and smoothens plucked or shaved underarms in just 4 weeks.

Alongside this innovative product, Rexona encourages Filipinas to live an under-harm free life through the "Under-harm Freedom with Rexona Pro Balance" campaign. It's a series of fun, interactive, and informative activities designed to help enlighten women about proper underarm care.



OVALTINE PROACTIVE: BEST FOR YOUNG ADULTS

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Aries Espinosa

Metrobank launches Corporate Stewardship program

METROBANK through its Trust Banking Group jumpstarts the year with the launching of Corporate Stewardship - an employee benefit program that integrates various human resources packages. It is a high value proposition that is mutually beneficial to the company and its employees. Companies benefit from the convenience of an integrated employee benefit program that includes retirement and savings plans such as basic and expanded Retirement Plan, Provident Plan, Other Special Employee Benefit Plans and/or Savings and Loan Plan.

Good Governance - Corporate Stewardship is open to all Philippine-based companies or corporations that intend to set up a retirement plan or to enhance and expand its existing employee benefit program. It is in line with every organization's objective to increase productivity, motivate employees, encourage loyalty and good governance. What's more like a good father and steward, it inculcates prudence and savings to employees and prepares them for self-sufficiency upon retirement, a value that could be shared from generation to generation.

Maximized Returns - With Metrobank Trust Banking, corporate clients expect nothing less than professional and global-standard fund management service. Companies benefit from the financial strength of the country's no. 1 bank and no. 1 Trust in the industry. Moreover, Metrobank Trust Banking prides itself with consistency in performance and a good track record of delivering a rate of return ranging from 10 percent to 12 percent (net) per annum for the past 5 years. Coupled with this, companies experience the exceptional service quality and the expertise of professional fund managers with long years of Trust Banking experience.

RA 7641 Compliant - Not withstanding the company's objectives of giving the best benefit packages to its employees, companies, through Corporate Stewardship will be compliant with the requirements of Republic Act No. 7641, that mandates companies to provide retirement benefits to its employees when they reached age 60 and has rendered at least 5 years of continuous service to the company.

IAS 19 Compliant - Corporate Stewardship conforms to the recently mandated International Accounting Standards (IAS) No. 19. The IAS 19 prescribes the accounting and disclosure of employee benefits that is, all forms of consideration given by an enterprise in exchange for service rendered by employees.

With these objectives and requirements of the laws in mind, Metrobank Trust Banking specifically designed the program to make it easy for the companies to set-up their desired employee benefit packages. It's easy to manage as Metrobank Trust Banking provides the expertise in assisting the company in the creation of their desired plan/s and the effective management of their cash flow as they can contribute to the fund on a staggered basis. Moreover, companies are able to maximize the earnings of its retirement fund and experience the convenience of having a professional to administer the employee benefit programs.

Other Benefits and Options - Through Corporate Stewardship, the company and the covered employees enjoy Discounts on various services from Manila Doctors Hospital and Pre-approved Metrobank Credit Cards for the employees with free 1st year annual membership (for employees with a minimum of P180,000 annual salary).

In addition, the company has the option to attach Special Group Discount Packages to an existing or proposed retirement plan to further boost employee benefits such as Supplemental Life Insurance Plan with Medical Reimbursement Plan option and Employee Loan Plan.

Companies availing of the Special Group Discount Packages can take advantage of very competitive and reasonable premiums that have been negotiated by Metrobank Trust Banking with the service providers.

Briefings for CEOs, CFOs and H.R. Heads - Finally, Metrobank - Trust Banking Group will be conducting a series of free pocket briefings on Corporate Stewardship to CEOs and CFOs of corporations who are interested to establish and/or enhance their retirement funds for their employees.

BITS Clips

Livelihood seminars

THERE will be seminars on Meat Processing and Herbal Soap and Detergent Making today, 10 a.m. to 5 pm at the UPAA Alumni Hostel Function Rooms (Ylanan St., corner Magsaysay ave, UP Diliman, QC). In Meat Processing, participants will learn how to make delicious ham (pork and chicken) ,tocino, skinless longanisa, hamburger, tapa, embutido, luncheon meat, siomai, kikiam and deboned chicken. In the soap making seminar, participants will learn how to make papaya and other herbal soaps, powdered detergent, fabric softener and liquid dishwashing soap. The seminars aim to arm participants with thorough knowledge and skills to pursue a successful livelihood business. Please call Seminars and Events Management Co. at 724-7990, 725-2936 or 723-3132 and look for Geraldine. They give discounts to early enrollees.

Party planning seminars

THIS month, Businessmaker Academy (BMA) launches a series of fun and profitable workshops on Party Planning: Gift baskets, ribbons and wrappings (Feb. 5) - learn different techniques in ribbon-making, wrapping and basket decorating; Dream weddings (Feb. 5 or Feb. 17) - a seminar that arms engaged couples and wedding planners to prepare dream weddings; Creative party planning (Feb. 11) - a lecture that shows you how to plan and organize parties that people remember; Decorative party balloons (Feb. 12 or Feb. 25) - this course provides you with a hands-on demonstration on how to create balloon arrangements for special events, parties and as gifts; Decorative box art (Feb. 23) - a seminar that gives you a step-by-step guide in creating boxes and packaging for your home-made products or gift items; Floral arrangements (Feb. 24) - a workshop that provides you with a hands-on demonstration on how to create floral arrangements for weddings and parties. These courses are offered complete with handouts, materials, pricing and source information, certificate of completion, snacks and drinks. Seminars are offered for individual and group bookings. For more information call 687-4445, 687-4645 or 687-3416.

PCCHS '62 grand reunion

THE PHILIPPINE College of Commerce High School Class of 1962 will hold its second grand reunion on Feb. 12 and 13. Venue is at Splash Mountain/Oasis Hotel Pansol, Los Baños Laguna. Transportation is provided at designated places in Manila and Makati. For details, call Tess Mariano at 826-5664 or Linda Santiago-Hipolito at 711-6107.

DaimlerChrysler AG appoints CATS Motors

DAIMLERCHRYSLER AG has appointed CATS Motors Inc in the Philippines as its distributor for the Mercedes-Benz, Chrysler Jeep and Dodge product brands with effect of 1st January, 2005. With its appointment as distributor, CATS Motors Inc is responsible for all aspects of automotive sales and after-sales in the Philippines for selected DaimlerChrysler brands and products. Dr. Rainer Thiel, president and CEO of DaimlerChrysler South East Asia: "In line with our worldwide retail offensive, we found in CATS Motors Inc a committed, resourceful and experienced partner in the Philippines, that will invest in a broad range of DaimlerChrysler brands and products which will benefit our present and potential customers."

'Rooster King Buffet at the Palace'

TAGAYTAY Highlands plays host to a grand Chinese buffet and a concert in celebration of Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day respectively. The "Rooster King Buffet at the Palace" starts at 11 a.m. and lasts until 3 p.m. today, at the Highlands China Palace. There will also be the Chinese version of the Filipino tradition pabitin in the form of ang pao (red envelopes usually containing money to symbolize prosperity) buntings. Kids who can gather the most number of ang pao buntings will receive special prizes. A pre-valentine show, "My Funny Valentine" featuring comedienne Tuesday Vargas and the Fat Session Band will be on Feb. 12 at 9 p.m. For inquiries and reservations, call (046)413-2033. For membership and other information on Highlands developments, call 687-2885.

AU(JASHS) '69 reunion

CALLING the attention of all alumni of Arellano University (Jose Abad Santos High School) class 1969, your former classmates, who have been meeting for some 3 years now, will hold their 3rd AU(JASHS) '69 Annual Reunión today, 11 a.m. at the AU(JASHS) school compound in Taft Avenue corner Buendia, Pasay City. Contact your following co-alumni for free reservation: Erlinda Flores - (0919)827-1887/471-1977; Vicflorante Ventura - (0919)740-8094/787-1830; Celia Pedro - (0916)475-8891/851-9007; Deorita Ramos - (0918)330-2509/813-8077.

'Dyamanteng Alay ng Santa Isabel' at Concert at the Park

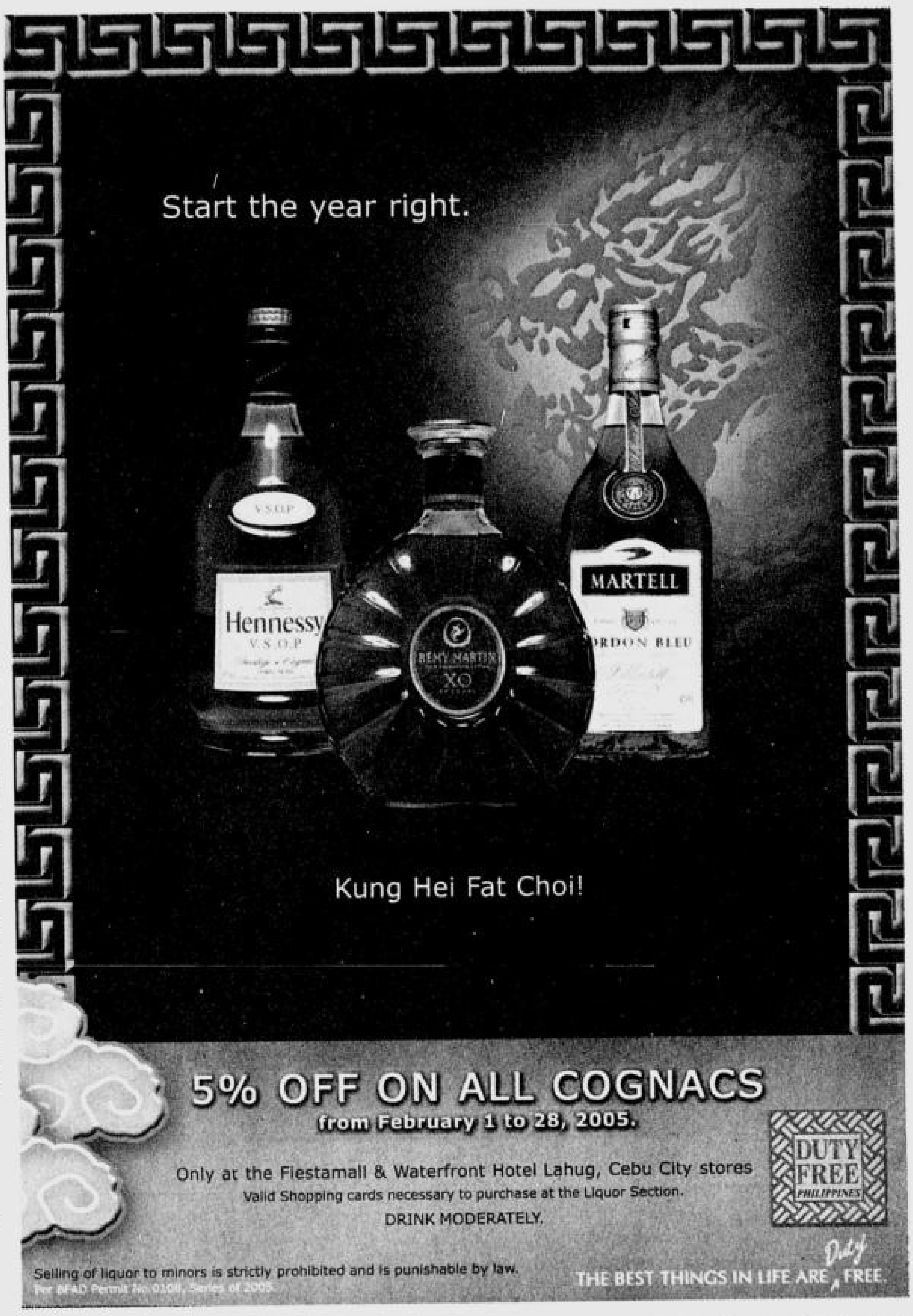
IN CELEBRATION of the 75th anniversary of the Sta. Isabel College Music Department and the 2005 National Arts Month, Concert at the Park presents the Sta. Isabel College Music Department talents today, starting at 5 p.m. in a program titled 'Dyamanteng Alay ng Santa Isabel'. Program host is Minette Padilla. Concert at the Park is regularly aired on NBN-4 every Tuesday, from 10 to 11 p.m. It is brought to the public for free by the National Parks Development Committee, under Executive Director Carlito Fajardo.

Callaway Golf demo

CALLAWAY Golf International and Electrobus Consolidated Inc jointly announces the release of the Big Bertha 454 Driver and the X-18 Irons. Much anticipated by golfers nationwide, ECI and its dealers will begin selling these new clubs 1st week of February. Also now available are the Big Bertha Fusion Irons and the White Hot Steel putters. For additional details and demo schedule, please contact: 687-1131, 631-1290, 371-1571 or 374-5037. Callaway Golf demo day schedule: Royal Maru (Feb. 9 and 10 - 5 to 7 p.m.); Citygolf (Feb. 16 and 17 - Whole Day); Southpoint (Feb. 23 and 24 - 5 to 7 p.m.)..

Feature writing workshop

A "FEATURE Writing for Beginners Workshop" will be held on Feb. 20, Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at ISIS International, No. 3 Marunong St. (near Phil. Heart Center). Fee inclusive of feature writing book, handouts, lunch and certificate. Call 417-1521, 0919-740-5199 or e-mail: wbetterworld@yahoo.com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Kung Hei Fat Choi!

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Valid Shopping cards necessary to purchase at the Liquor Section.
DRINK MODERATELY.

Selling of liquor to minors is strictly prohibited and is punishable by law.
Per BFAD Permit No. 0108, Series of 2005

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THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE Duty FREE.
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V.S.O.P
REMY MARTIN
XO
MARTELL
CORDON BLEU

Seven cheers for
Siloy on Feb. 8

CEBU DAILY NEWS

The fastest-growing regional paper in the Visayas

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

ENGR. FRANCISCO N. NIDEA

of Legazpi City

was called home to the Lord
on Wednesday, February 2, 2005
at the age of 92.

His loving wife **PURITA** (†); children and children-in-law **FRANCY** and **FREDDIE KALLOS**, **NER** and **TITO SOLIMAN**, **GING** and **ED TADIAR**, **BOY** and **CORA NIDEA**, **CHITO** and **PETER WALLACE**, **MARITES** and **JOHNNY BAUTISTA**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Nstra. Sra. De Salvacion, Legazpi City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 12, 2005 at the Bicol Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the St. Gregory The Great Cathedral, Albay.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

BENIGNO VIQUIERA CUNANAN

April 27, 1915 - February 4, 2005

Joined his Creator at the age of 89.

His loving wife FELICITAS VILLARAMA CUNANAN; children EDDIE and Cherry, RONY and Connie, CHERRY and Jun Villena, CYNTHIA and Estoy Estorninos, ARIS and Dena, and ABET; grandchildren Gina, Che-Che, Michelle, Jayr, Kiko, Bingo, Elmo, Ria, Vincent, Andrew, Princh, Klarise; great grandchildren Cobbee, Enzo, Renchel, A.C. and Ryan; brother Rodolfo, sisters Socorro, Avelina, Natividad, Aurora and their spouses other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Agoncillo Chapel, La Funeraria Paz (inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat, Parañaque City until early morning of Tuesday, February 8, 2005 and will be brought to the Immaculate Concepcion Chapel in Marungko, Angat, Bulacan.

Interment follows at the Angat Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

A Message of Thanks
From the family of

Col. Constancio R. Velasco (Ret.)

Sa inyong pakikiramay sa pagpanaw ng aming pinakamamahal na Ama at Lolo Tantong at patuloy na pagdasal para sa katahimikan ng kanyang kaluluwa, taus puso ang aming pasasalamat.

Manny, Ting, Egay,
Dean at Nette
Kasama ng kanilang mga asawa, anak at apo.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

The Board of Directors,
Officers and Employees
of

L.V.N. PICTURES, INC.

deeply condole with the family of

Manuel Buencamino De Leon

Chairman Emeritus

who passed away February 4, 2005

His body lies in state at No. 35 Broadway (Doña Juana Rodriguez), New Manila, Quezon City

There will be Mass at 6:00 p.m. today, February 6, 2005. The Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, February 7, 2005, at 2:00 p.m. at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in New Manila, Quezon City, after which cremation will take place at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA

• LAS PIÑAS

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas
Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024

• MAKATI

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
885 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City, Tels 890-3558; 899-8191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City
Tels. 895-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City, Tel 890-63-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-0223
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284

• MALABON

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812083; 2813034; 2810522

• MANDALUYONG

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

• MANILA

DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125. 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
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I was glad when they said to me
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."
Psalms 122:1

MANUEL BUENCAMINO DE LEON

Peacefully returned to the arms of our Father
on the 4th of February, 2005 at the age of 89,
joining his beloved wife, ***Melly*** *(†), his son,* ***Bubut*** *(†),*
and his sister, ***Carning*** *(†)*

His children **Ching**, **Manito**, **Mike** and **Oya**; his sister **Bading Erana**; his grandchildren **Johnny** and **Charlene**, **Mark** and **Barni**, **Carlos** and **Vicki**, **Margarita** and **Stuart**, and **Bea** and **Marcus**; his great-grandchildren **Max**, **Claudia**, **Alec**, **Carolina**, and **Enzo**; his nephews and nieces **Nenita**, **Rene** and **Raoul**, **Bololong** and **Rowena**, **BG** and **Tim**, **Joselito**, **Boopsie**, **Val** and **Bianca**, **Luz** and **Jorge**, and **Paeng** and **Marivic**; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for him to the Father Almighty to grant him eternal peace.

His body lies in state at No. 35 Broadway (Dona Juana Rodriguez), New Manila, Quezon City. There will be mass at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. The funeral mass will be held on Monday, the 7th of February, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in New Manila, after which cremation will follow at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the CHILDREN'S HOUR will be appreciated.

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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

SESENIO "RC" RAVALO

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 23, 2005

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude
and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses
and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy
and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us
in our hour of bereavement.

"In peace
I shall both lie down
and sleep for You
alone Lord
make me secure."

(Psalm 4:9)

God has you in His keeping; we have you in our hearts....

Our Beloved

ADORACION REYES BERNARDEZ

of Cabanatuan City and Bangued Abra
on the day of the first Anniversary
of her Birth to Eternal Life
February 06, 2004

Her husband Engr. RUBEN F. BERNARDEZ together with his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: CONSORCIA-FERNANDO SANTIAGO(†), JULIETA, SEVERINO, ISABELITA and DIGNA-LUIS BANZON; nephews and niece-in-law, JOSELITO and MARIA LUCITA SANTIAGO, JOSE LUIS, JOSE ONOFRE, JOSE ANTONIO and JOSEPH REUBEN BANZON; grand daughter, MARIA SAMANTHA; auntie FELISA P. REYES; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law request relatives, friends and beloved readers to offer praises and thanksgiving to the Lord for her wonderful life. ("The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." JOB 1:21)

Masses at:	*1.*	*Parish of Saint Nicholas de Tolentine* *Cabanatuan City*	*7:30 a.m.*
	2.	*Parish of Mother of Perpetual Help* *Cabanatuan City*	*6:00 a.m.*
	3.	*Saint James The Elder Cathedral* *Bangued, Abra*	*7:30 a.m.*
	4.	*Saint Narcisus Parish Church* *Bucay, Abra*	*7:00 a.m.*
	5.	*Our Lady Of Immaculate Conception* *Parish Church* *Pidigan, Abra*	*7:00 a.m.*
	6.	*Saint Catherine Parish Church* *Tayum, Abra*	*8:00 a.m.*
	7.	*Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish* *Balanga City, Bataan*	*6:30 a.m.*
	8.	*Our Lady of Pillar Parish* *Pilar, Bataan*	*6:00 a.m.*

In Loving Memory
on the 2nd Death Anniversary of

Jose S. Enejosa, Jr.

who passed away on February 6, 2003.

His wife Evelyn; children Jojo (†), Jeffrey, Jinky (†), Jennifer & Rolando; grandchildren Christopher, Alexandria & RJ; in-laws and other relatives request the readers to pray for his eternal repose.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring..:
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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•MERCHANDISE MANAGER

Job Summary

Reports to the Division Manager and is responsible for planning, producing, and controlling merchandise, and interacting with suppliers to support store operations, while following the Mission & Vision of Republic Retailers. *More information at www . republicretailers . com or a Recruitment Brochure from our stores.*

Job Requirements

- ☐ Work experience in the same capacity in the retail industry (2 years)
- ☐ Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course, preferably with an MBA or Fashion Merchandising Degree
- ☐ Concise and clear business writing and verbal communication skills
- ☐ Proficient computer skills
- ☐ Is analytical, results and detail-oriented, proactive, highly motivated, artistic, creative and has a good fashion sense
- ☐ Ability to identify and apply systems solutions to business problems
- ☐ Ability to prioritize, multi-task and work successfully in a fast-paced work environment

More information at www . republicretailers . com or a Recruitment Brochure from our stores.

•STORE FRONTLINER

Job Summary

Reports to the Store Operations Manager, and is responsible for in-store selling, organizing, communicating, knowing and marketing of products through exceptional customer service, while following the Mission and Vision of Republic Retailers. *More information at www . republicretailers . com or a Recruitment Brochure from our stores.*

Job Requirements

- ☐ College degree or customer service experience in the retail, restaurant or hotel industry
- ☐ Willing and able to work on weekends and holidays
- ☐ Ability to deliver super-premium customer service
- ☐ Ability to work as part of a team
- ☐ Ability to work in a fast-paced and changing environment
- ☐ Strong problem-solving and interpersonal skills
- ☐ Effective oral communication skills
- ☐ Ability to learn new concepts and information quickly and concisely
- ☐ Willingness to learn

More information at www . republicretailers . com or a Recruitment Brochure from our stores.

•HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER / ASSISTANT

Job Summary

Reports to the General Manager and is responsible for performance management, recruitment, implementation of HR policies & procedures, administering discipline, and providing information and support to employees' needs and concerns. *More information at www . republicretailers . com or a Recruitment Brochure from our stores*

Job Requirements (Work, Edu, Skills, Attitude)

- ☐ 3-5 years experience in employee relations.
- ☐ Strong working knowledge of human resource principles.
- ☐ Prior retail or hospitality experience preferred.
- ☐ Ability to recruit, identify and select talent.

More information at www . republicretailers . com or a Recruitment Brochure from our stores.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HOW TO APPLY:

- **Go to www. republicretailers.com**

OR

- **Get a "RECRUITMENT BROCHURE" from any of our stores: 2/F, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City, or 1st Level Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Drive corner Estrella St., Makati City, or 2nd Level Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.**

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project	Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)
Loan No.	Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI
Description of Works	Construction and Development of a Linear Park along Fort Santiago in Intramuros, Manila

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contract for Fort Santiago Linear Park (Contract No. EPA-LPP-17)
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Package : Construction and Development of a Linear Park
Contract No. : EPA-LPP-17
Area : 6,155 sq.m.
Location : Fort Santiago Intramuros, Manila
Contract Duration : 180 calendar days
Project Description : Construction and development of a linear park / promenade which includes the following items of work; civil, electrical, plumbing, hardscape and softscape elements.

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 11,500.00	From 14-18, Feb.	8 am – 5 pm	PRRC 2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road Old Balara, Quezon City, 1105	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents	From 14-18, Feb.	8 am – 5 pm		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
a. Pre-Bid Conference	1 March	9 am	PRRC (same address)	
b. Site Inspection	1 March	2 pm	Hospicio Canteen inside Fort Santiago Intramuros, Manila	Right after Pre-Bid Conference
Deadline for submission of Bids	14 March	10 am	PRRC (same address)	Late bids (bids submitted after 10 am) shall not be accepted
Opening of Bids	14 March	10:15 am	PRRC (same address)	Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders

4. The Intramuros Administration (IA) and the City of Manila shall be the implementing agencies of the Contract.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check / Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 and ADB Guidelines for the Procurement of Civil Works as standardized under the harmonized ADB-GOP Procurement of Works guidelines.
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H. B. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-3446; Fax No. 926-6449
Email address: prrc@tri-isys.com

(PDI – February 6 & 13, 2005)

VALUE ADDED PRODUCTION MANAGER

An international seafood company is looking for a motivated person to join our new Value Added seafood processing project in Roxas City, Capiz.

This person must possess the following:

- Food Science Degree
- Previous experience in Value Added Food Production/RD
- MUST be a hands on worker, this is not an office position
- HACCP certified with thorough food safety, GMP and sanitation knowledge
- Thorough knowledge of process control
- Strong personal management skills
- Computer literate

In addition to overseeing the VA production, basic R/D work will also be part of this position's responsibilities.

This position will require brief training in Indonesia so a valid passport is necessary.

Send full resumé with picture to:

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Bacolod City, 6100

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Bids and Awards Committee
Leyte Division

Invitation for Bids

IFB No. LYT - 48 – 003 - 0364

February 6, 2005

To All Qualified Bidders

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov. 1987) and IDA Credits.*

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of Leyte Division and its implementing partners, Department of Education ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Construction of One (1) unit – Six (6) Classroom Two Storey TEEP School Building at **Palompon Central School, Palompon, Leyte**. Interested local contractors should be accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and must be at least **"Small Sub-category B"**. Interested foreign contractors must submit evidence, in the English Language, to show that they are duly established and reputable contractors in their home country.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Leyte Division, TEEP SBP Officec with the address at Leyte Division Office Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte from **February 7 to March 7, 2005** for a nonrefundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00)** for each set. A Pre-bid conference will be held at the same address on Feb. 23, 2005 at 9:00 AM. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division Office of Leyte, Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte on or before 10:00 AM on March 8, 2005 at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(SGD.) **AURORA AQUINO-VILLARENTE, CESO VI**
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 06, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Bids and Awards Committee
Leyte Division

Invitation for Bids

IFB No. LYT-026-13-0365

February 6, 2005

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for evil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov. 1987) and IDA Credits.*
2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of Leyte Division and its implementing partners. Department of Education ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Construction of One (1) unit - Six (6) Classroom Two Storey TEEP School Building at **Cabacungan Elementary School, Dulag, Leyte**. Interested local contractors should be accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and must be at least **"Small Sub-category B"**. Interested foreign contractors must submit evidence in the English Language, to show that they are duly established and reputable contractors in their home country.
3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Leyte Division, TEEP SBP Office with the address at Leyte Division Office Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte from **February 7 to March 7, 2005** for a nonrefundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00)** for each set. A Pre-bid conference will be held at the same address on February 23, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division Office of Leyte, Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte on or before 10:00 a.m. on **March 8, 2005** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) **AURORA AQUINO-VILLARENTE, CESO VI**
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 6, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
National Police Commission
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
HEADQUARTERS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP
Camp Crame, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Traffic Management Group Bids and Awards Committee (TMB BAC) invites interested bidder to bid for transport requirement of TMG describe as follows:

Asia Utility Vehicle 5 door lift back rear door
Engine 1800 cc Gasoline fed
Manually operated
Seating Capacity – 10 passengers
Body color & markings – white with 2 blue horizontal stripe
  and appropriate TMG/PNP Markings seal as specified
  in NAPOLCOM Resolution No. 99-002 dated Jan 1999
Standard vehicles accessories:
Police rotary blinker (light bar red and blue)
Emergency siren w/ PA system

Only bidders accredited by PNP will be allowed to participate in the following activities: (Bidders are advised to submit / apply for accreditation requirements to PNP Directorate for Research and Development).

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Submission of Sealed Bid and Pre Bid Requirement	18 Feb. 05	0900H	TMG Conference Room

FOR INQUIRY Call Tel. No. 721-85-11
(ATTN: PSSUPT MANOLO C TEODORO)

(PDI – Jan. 23, 30 & Feb. 6, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Division of Batanes
Third Elementary Education Project

Invitation for Bids

February 6, 2005

Rehabilitation of Existing Office Building for the Division of Batanes in Basco, Batanes

(Funded by GOP and JBIC Loan No. PH-184P)

The GOP has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) toward the financing of Third Elementary Education Project and it intends to apply part or the whole of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the contract.

The Department of Education now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the rehabilitation of the existing Division Office building for the Division of Batanes. Completion of the works is required in four months construction period or no later than July 31, 2005.

The procurement will be conducted in accordance with the applicable version of JBIC's *Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by Interested Bidders at the following addresses and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Php 2,500.00 from February 7 - March 7, 2005:

Department of Education
Division of Batanes
Basco, Batanes

-or-

Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Central Project Implementing Support Unit
Civil Works Unit
5th Floor, Bonifacio Building
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of two and a half percent (2.5%) of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education on or before 10:00 AM of March 8, 2005 at Parklane Hotel, Brgy. Bant, Ilocos Norte at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

A pre-bid conference will be held on February 24, 2005 at Parklane Hotel, Brgy. Bant, Ilocos Norte to respond to prospective Bidders questions regarding any matter contained in the Bidding Documents.

The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(SGD.) Wivina B. Gonzales
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 06, 2005)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the plate No. PYH 6391 under the name of LUZ BERCEROWAS was lost as per Doc No. 329; Page No. 66; Book No. XXVIII; Series of 2003.
PDI-Jan 23, 30 & Feb 6, 2005

Notice of Loss - Metro Bank Stock Cert.#127104 2,250shrs under the name of Ng Wing Fai was declared lost. If no contest received with in 1year new certificate will be issued.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the following Stock Certificates of TECHNOTEST, INC., covering the number of shares inscribed thereon, have been declared lost by their respective registered owners as follows: EUSTAQUIO T.C. ACERO: Stock Certificate No. 7 for 500 shares: SC#52 for 200 shares: SC# 84 for 1808 shares; SC# 161 for 1992 shares; SC# 390 for 1127 shares; SC# 495 for 50 shares; EVANGELINE A. ACERO: SC# 305 for 40 shares; SC# 392 for 10 shares; SC# 497 for 50 shares; SC# 526 for 997 shares; EMMANUEL A. ACERO: SC# 214 for 54 shares; SC# 313 for 113 shares; SC# 391 for 40 shares; SC# 496 for 50 shares; and RIZAL G. RAMOS: SC# 50 for 150 shares; SC# 58 for 60 shares; SC# 119 for 403 shares; SC# 150 for 40 shares; SC# 195 for 760 shares; SC# 297 for 50 shares; SC# 357 for 425 shares; SC# 444 for 453 shares; and SC# 510 for 50 shares. If no properly validated claim/s is/are received, within the period prescribed by law, replacement certificates will be issued to their respective registered owners as reflected in the books of the corporation.
(PDI-Feb. 6, 13 & 20, 2005)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ashok Kumar Asnani S/o Shri Hasanand R/o 101 Nahari Ka Naka, Sindhi Colony, Power House Road Jaipur (Raj.) Declare that I have leaved my previous name Ashok Kumar today Now in future to be know as my new name as Ashok Kumar Asnani. No. 15 Gulsad Sumng, Baguio City

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **Mr. Victor Cunanan** whose photo appears above, is no longer connected with P.G. Arnaiz Maintenance Services effective January 28, 2005 **and has a pending case of "ESTAFA".**

Any transactions made through him on the said date and after will not be honored by the company.

Thank you.

(PDI – February 6, 2005)

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SBMA Labor Department,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Contact Person:Estelito C. Aliño, Jr.
Personnel Officer
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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2005-03A

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 01, 2005; 1:30 PM

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET
A1	220 PCS	INSULATORS, LINE POST PORCELAIN	CAV-05-005	P 6,600,000.00
A2	2500 PCS	INSULATORS, GLAZED, WITH ZINC SLEEVE	CSA-04-379	2,100,000.00

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference for the above schedules shall be held on February 17, 2005; 1:30 PM at the OAVP Conference Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat/MMS, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher, per bidding schedule, starting February 8, 2005. No bid documents shall be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids shall be received at the Conference Room (OAVP), Transco-SL O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids shall be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality or defect therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net and at the TRANSCO Website. www.transco.ph.

(Sgd.) R. B. VERGARA
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Feb. 6, 2005)

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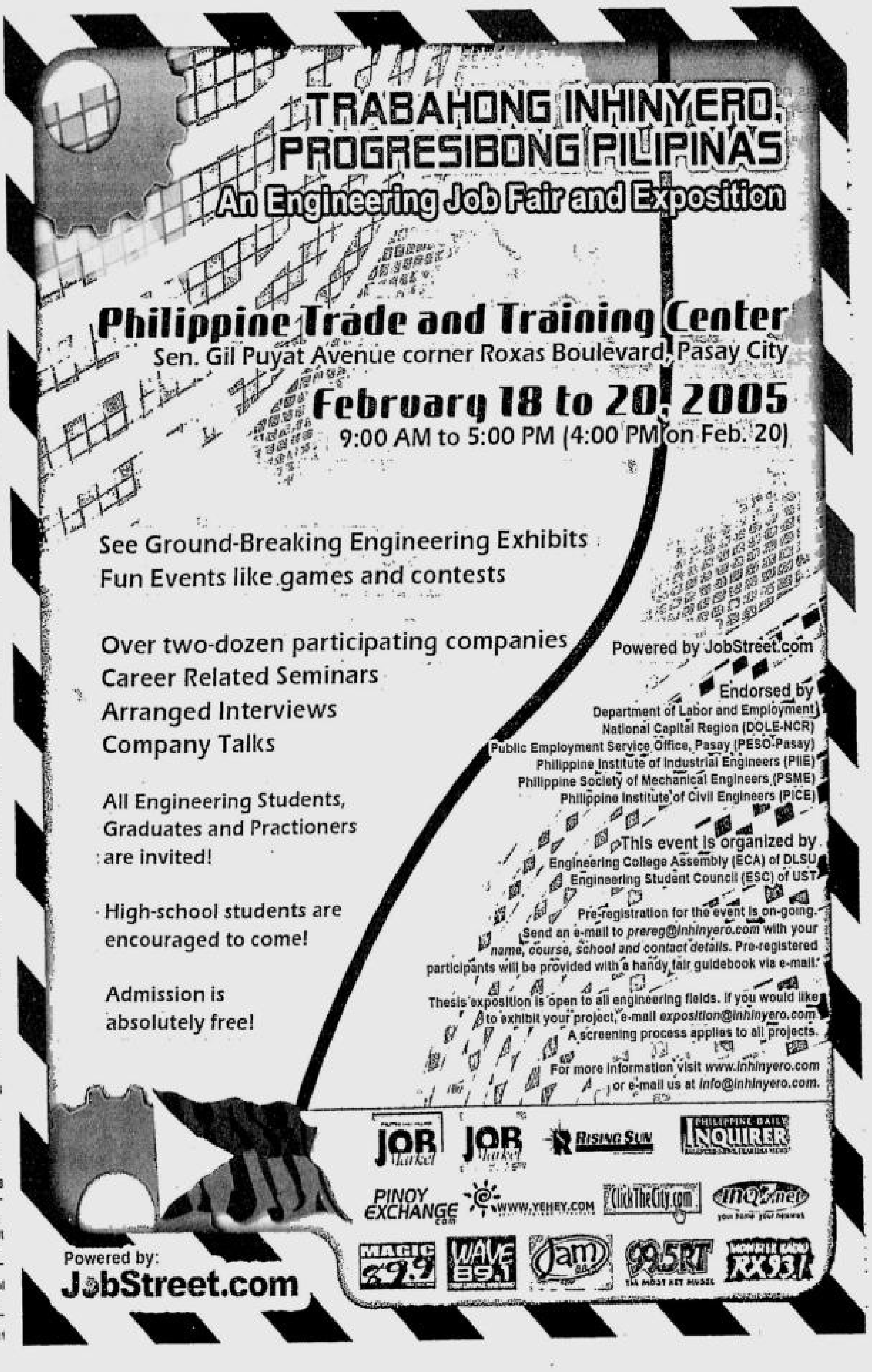

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Brgy.Zone IV (Center Paredes)
Minimum Bid Price P 940,000.00

Lot 3–Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 277 sqm L1-A Slodina Subd, Barrio1
Minimum Bid Price P 305,440.00

Lot 4 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 588 sqm L13-I-8&9
Ardena Subd, Purok Hillside, Brgy. Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price P 281,920.00

Lot 5 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 375 sqm L2 Blk5 Lebanan Subd Zone I, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price P 538,617.00

Lot 6 - Res'l. Lot LA 374 sqm
L13 Blk7 Pantua Vill, Zone III Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price P 240,000.00

DAVAO

Res'l. Lots,Guadalupe Subd,Lanang
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Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
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Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 10 – L5 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 11 – L6 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 12 – L7 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 13 – L8 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 14 – L9 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 15 – L10 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00

DAVAO

Res'l. Lots, Guadalupe Subd, Lanang
Lot 16 – L11 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.0
Lot 17 – L12 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 18 – L13 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 19 – L14 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 20 – L15 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 21 – L16 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 22 – L17 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 23 – L18 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 24 – L19 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 25 – L20 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00

Lot 26 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 320 sqm
L41 Blk 2, Diamond St., EcolandSubd.
Minimum Bid Price P 2,552,143.00

Lot 27 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 270 sqm 87- A Molave St., Nova Tierra Village, Lanang
Minimum Bid Price P 4,127,355.00

Lot 28 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 236 sqm, FA 331 sqm
L11 Blk3 Waling-waling St. Garden Park Vill., Bajada
Minimum Bid Price P 3,513,291.00

Lot 29 – Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 300 sqm Narra St., Nova Tierra Village, Lanang
Minimum Bid Price P 1,100,000.00

Lot 30 – Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA [illegible] land
Sub [illegible]
Minimum Bid Price P 1,[illegible].00

WITHDRAWN

GENERAL SANTOS

Res'l./ Industrial Lots, Airport Road, Banisil Subd., Brgy. Tambler
Lot 31 – Lot 7-O-3-A LA 5,522 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,070,750.00
Lot 32 - Lot 7-O-2 LA 2,000 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 450,000.00

GEN. SANTOS

Lot 33 -Res'l./Industrial Lot
LA3,922sqm Lot12-E-1 Brgy.Tambler
Minimum Bid Price P 2,353,200.00

Lot 34 - Res'l. Lot LA 1,647sqm
Lot 21-I-1 & 21-I-5-R Brgy Tambler
Minimum Bid Price P 461,160.00

SULTAN KUDARAT

Lot 35–Res'l./Comm'l., Lot
LA1,104sqm L593-G-3 & G-4-B
Canos St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price P 7,862,400.00

Lot 36 – Industrial Lot LA10,000sqm
Lot 328-A-3 Brgy Carmen, San Pablo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,831,410.00

Lot 37 – Res'l. Lot LA 496 sqm
Lot6756-T-5-A Brgy. San Pablo, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price P 130,200.00

Lot 38 –Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 2,099sqm 1st Block, Purok Rosal, Brgy. New Isabela, Tacurong
Minimum Bid Price P 1,023,375.00

Lot 39 – Industrial Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 35,150sqm, FA 17,295sqm
L10089-A&B-2 & 37-A Nat'l. Hway
Brgy. Carmen, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price P 44 786 320 00

BUKIDNON

Lot 40 – Res'l. Lot LA 564 sqm
Lot501 Davao–Cagayan Nat'l Hi-way, Sitio Dabong–dabong, Bo.Mailag, Valencia
Minimum Bid Price P 282,000.00

Lot 41 –Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 2,141sqm Lot A-11-C-7-D-1
Brgy. Lumbo, Valencia City
Minimum Bid Price P 824,760.00

BUTUAN

Lot 42 – Industrial Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 23,301sqm, FA 9,044sqm
L1-A & 2 Km. 4 Baan
Minimum Bid Price P 18,342,225.00

CAGAYAN DE ORO

Lot 43 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 1,092 sqm, FA 630 sqm
L39 Blk1 SapphireSt. GoldenVill, Carmen
Minimum Bid Price P 5,592,600.00

CAGAYAN DE ORO

Lot 44 – Comm'l. Lot LA 300 sqm
L5 Blk6 Ph1 XavierEstates,Upper Balulang
Minimum Bid Price P 1,536,000.00

Lot 45 – Res'l. Lot LA 287 sqm
L16 Blk14 Ph1Xavier Estates,UpperBalulang
Minimum Bid Price P 849,520.00

Lot 46 – Industrial w/ Imprvmnt
LA 2,305sqm Gaabucayan Ext ,Puntod
Minimum Bid Price P 17,573,350.00

Lot 47 - Comm'l. LA 846 sqm
Comm'l Lot # 2 , Osmeña Ext.,
Minimum Bid Price P 6,091,200.00

Lot 48 – Comm'l. LA 535 sqm
Lot 1 Corrales Ave. Ext.,
Minimum Bid Price P 3,400,000.00

DIPOLOG CITY

Lot 49 - Res'l. LA 3,403 sqm
L2113-F-3 Dipolog-Ipil Nat'l. Highway, Brgy. Olingan
Minimum Bid Price P 2,099,585.00

PARAÑAQUE

Res'l. Condo., Makati South Hills Arcade, East Service Road, Bgy. Balagbag (near airport)
Lot 50 – Unit 201 FA 68.75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,168,750.00
Lot 51 – Unit 301 FA 136.31 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,317,270.00
Lot 52 – Unit 302 FA 107 35 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,824,950.00

Lot 53 – Res'l. Condo. FA 185.87 sqm
Unit 1605 Chateau De Baie Condo. Roxas Blvd., cor Airport Rd. Baclaran(near airport)
Minimum Bid Price P 4,460,000.00

QUEZON CITY

Lot 54 – Res'l. Twnhse FA 230 61 sqm
Unit 13 Capitol Golf Townhomes & Golfers Villas. Capitol Hills (near Ateneo & UP)
Minimum Bid Price P 3,975,980.00

Lot 55 –Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt LA160sqm
Road Lot 649-D-3-C, Towerville Homes Bgy. Culiat (near UP)
Minimum Bid Price P 4,007,250.00

SAN JUAN

Lot 56 –Comm'l Condo FA 158.76sqm
Mezzanine Shop 4, Goldland Tower Cond., Eisenhower St., Greenhills (near La Salle)
Minimum Bid Price P 4,762,800.00

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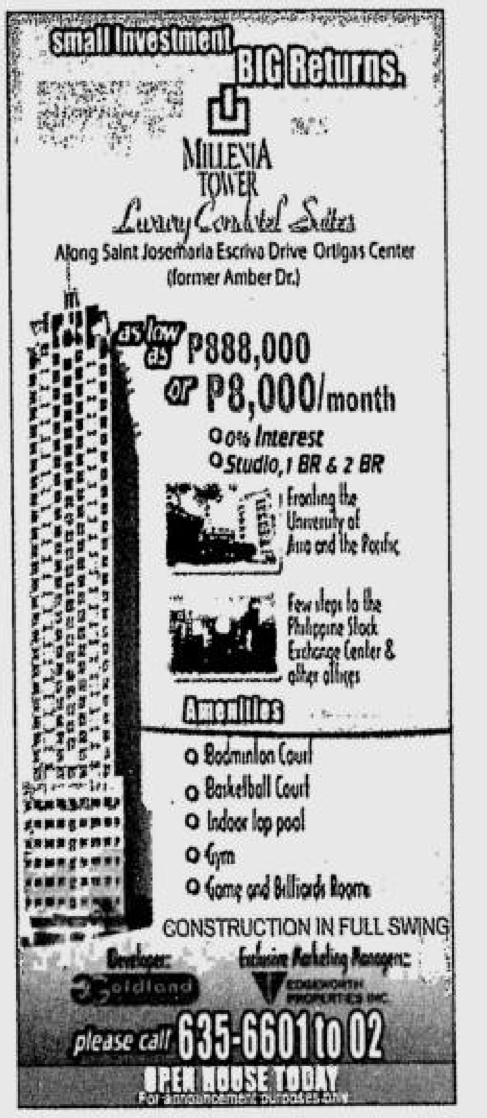
CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG



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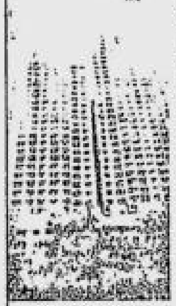
PASEO PARKVIEW TOWERS
Valero/Sedeno Sts. (near Paseo de Roxas)



A well-appointed two-story grand lobby • First-rate recreational amenities such as a tropical pool and sun deck, children's play area, fitness center, function room and landscaped greenery • 24-hour security • Multi-level carpark at the podium and basement • Next to the Ayala Triangle and Velasquez Parks and Makati's prime business and commercial centers

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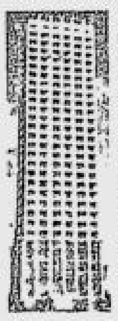
GREENBELT RADISSONS
Soria/Aguirre Sts. (near Makati's Greenbelt Mall)



Excellent location in the middle of the Makati central business district • Spacious, neo-contemporary-style grand lobby • Exquisitely designed executive studios and one- to two bedroom homes with balconies overlooking the city • Deluxe recreational amenities such as a swimming pool with landscaped sun deck, mini-gym, multipurpose function room and laundromat • 24-hour security • Multilevel carpark at the podium and basement

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P20,000/mo.

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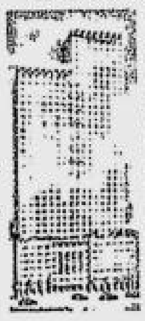
Palanca/Gil Sts. (near Makati's Greenbelt Mall)



A prized location at the heart of the Makati central business district • Impressive, well-appointed lobby • Luxurious executive studios and one-bedroom homes • First-rate recreational amenities such as a 25-meter lap pool with sunbathing lounge and outdoor dining area • Retail shops at the ground floor • 24-hour security • Multilevel carpark at the podium and basement

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4 contiguous improved industrial lots, LA 20,467 sqms. more or less, Brgy. Tipanoy, Iligan City. Selling Price P16,975,000.00

res'l land w/ single storey dilapidated structure; LA 4,470 sqms : corner of Bustillo & Magsaysay Sts., Lapaz, Iloilo City. Selling Price: P 7,948,000.00.

residential condo (C7-210B); FA 21.19 sqms. Makati Palm Tower Phase I, San Antonio Village, Makati City Selling Price: P362,158.29.

Parking (C6-GFP6); FA 18.00 sqms.. Makati Palm Tower, San Antonio Village, Makati City. Selling Price: P 459,270.00

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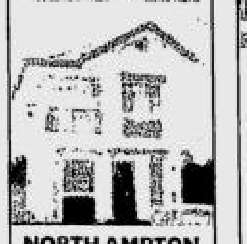

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STA. CRUZ MANILA NEAR SM SAN LAZARO 132.90 SQM P3M 7128013

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SANLO 700M² 26M 8130723

COMM'L/RES'DL

QUEZON CITY

•Kamias No. 11 K-I cor K-6th• 9210255 9219967 9209822

SAN JUAN

6000m² SITE 4 Hospital, Condo, Thse, Shpng Ctr or Any? 0918-6187744 or 941-51-29

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

MUNTINLUPA

BN HSE AAV P52M 631-3296

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10837 Oak St., Executive Vill. Sun Valley Paranaque City T-09178246244

3BR 2T&B LA-244m² FA-150m² Very Nr SM Sucat P1.5M Cash & Assume Bal. 0917-8970728 • 825-3050

P3.2M NEG 8204685 SUCAT

QUEZON CITY

3BR-4BR Bung/Thse/2sty P3M-P6M neg. 09178997547

RUSH SALE owner leaving #13 Admirable Lane Sanville Subd 9280672 Best offer only

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TANDANG SORA P2.1M NEG 3BR,TB, CG, NAWASA, PLDT W/AIRCON NR VISAYAS AVE 0920-9607526 / 9351681

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Rush 3br 2t&b 3Cp Lot 479m² Hse 160m² Villa Cecilia Antipolo P4M Negotiable 6467796 6469538 Myra

Rush Sale Hse & Lot infront of Jollibee Masinag 1.3M 135sqm Call 09212630565 / 09228001541

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NEW MANILA
854sqm 5BR corner P20M
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1441sqm & 722 P20Th/sqm
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AYALA WESTGROOVE PH4 BRAND NEW HOUSE 313sqm & lot 412sqm • fronting Kids Groove Clubhaus playgrnd & swimming pool. 5277616 • 0920-9503228 luk 4 Violy

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CAMELLA HOMES BACOOR LA137m² FA198.90m² 5BR P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

BINAN P400T/mo 5201702

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61.28m P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA78m² P1.7M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

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9635 Kamagong St Makati
455 sqm P38T/sqm
9637 Kamagong St Makati
440 sqm P38T/sqm
Miramar 817-1589/91/94

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1 LaFayette Sq P7.5M 6341212

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1.2M C5 Nr The Fort 12T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

12M Condo Nr. C5 DFort 2-4BR 10%DP Move-In 0927-3306614

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CALOOCAN

Lot 1 - Res'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 225 sqm L33 Blk21 Cottonwood St. Rainbow Vill 5 Ph3, Brgy Deparo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,816,650.00

LAS PIÑAS

Res'l Twnhse. RoyalSouth Townhomes, Brgy Talon Singko
Lot 2 – L10 Blk16 FA 63 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 915,000.00
Lot 3 – L9 Blk16 FA 65 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 907,500.00
Lot 4 – L21 Blk16 FA 78 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 970,500.00
Lot 5 – L28 Blk16 FA 120 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,075,000.00

Res'l Lots, Royal South Townhomes, Brgy Talon Singko
Lot 6 – L1-3 Blk14 LA 149 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 745,000.00
Lot 7 – L3&4 Blk16 LA 155 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 775,000.00

MANILA

Lot 8 - Comm'l Lot LA 679 sqm
#760 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price P 13,578,000.00

MUNTINLUPA

Lot 9 - Res lw/ Imprvmnt (w/ swimming pool) LA 1,333 sqm, FA 580 sqm
#213 Calachuchi St. Ayala Alabang Vill (Ph3-A2), Brgy Alabang
Minimum Bid Price P 21,000,000.00

PARAÑAQUE

Lot 10 - Res'l Lot LA 350 sqm
L12 Blk14, Cadena de Amor St. United Parañaque 4, San Dionisio
Minimum Bid Price P 1,330,000.00

Lot 11 - Res'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 240 sqm L28 Blk9 Doña Leonila St. (Rd Lot 7), Ironeville-1 Subd. San Dionisio
Minimum Bid Price P 1,272,000.00

Lot 12 - Res'l Lot LA 435 sqm
L26 Blk26 Fernwood Circle, Marcelo Green Vill Ph2
Minimum Bid Price P 2,427,840.00

PASIG

Comm'l Condo, Taipan Place Condo, Emerald Ave., Ortigas
Lot 13 – Unit 1204 FA 128.99 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 4,513,185.00
Lot 14 – Unit 1205 FA 127.33sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 5,033,880.00

QUEZON CITY

Lot 15 - Res'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 924 sqm. FA 439 sqm
18 (Formerly 22) Rosa Alvero St, Xavierville Subd II, Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price P 13,361,400.00

Lot 16 – Res'l Condo FA 44 sqm
Unit 610 PrinceJun Condo TimogAve
Minimum Bid Price P 1,126,400.00

Lot 17 – Comm'l Lot LA 2,401 sqm
Lot12-B,14-B & 16-B Aurora Blvd. near cor Gilmore St., Brgy Valencia, Cubao
Minimum Bid Price P 82,500,000.00

Lot 18 – Res'l Lot LA 300 sqm
L7 Blk8 Mt. Whitney St., Filinvest Homes 1, Capitol District
Minimum Bid Price P 1,912,500.00

Lot 19-Res'l Lot w/imprvmnt
LA 282 sqm 401 Rosas St. (L1 Blk5), Villa Verde Homes, Brgy. Santa Monica, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price P 1,943,786.00

Lot 20 - Res'l Twnhse FA118.30sqm
Unit 4-A Alpha Victoria Homes, 14th St. cor Victoria Ave, Brgy. Damayan Lagi, New Manila
Minimum Bid Price P 7,675,500.00

Lot 21 – Res'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA406.70sqm #16(Lot17)&#18(Lot10) PajoSt.Quirino 2-A/QuirinoDist. Proj.2
Minimum Bid Price P 4,148,340.00

Lot 22 - Res'l Lot LA 400sqm
L28 Blk148 PalmanovaSt. Neopolitan V (CasaMilan)BrgyPasongPutikNovaliches
Minimum Bid Price P 1,440,000.00

Lot 23 - Comm'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA1,343sqm, FA1,870sqm Klanbin Bldg.Corregidor corAbraSts.BagoBantay
Minimum Bid Price P 30,000,000.00

Lot 24 - Res'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 77sqm. FA 97.50sqm Road Lot 649-C-4-C, Towerville Homes, Brgy Culiat
Minimum Bid Price P 1,019,200.00

SAN JUAN

Lot 25 – Res'l Condo LA 289.50sqm
Unit 507, 5/F Continental Court, 47 Annapolis St., Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price P 7,320,600.00

VALENZUELA

Lot 26 - Res'l Lots LA 600 sqm
L9-12 Blk1 Vista Verde North Exec Subd. Ph1-C, Brgy Lawang Bato
Minimum Bid Price P 1,530,000.00

Lot 27 -Res'l Condo. FA 280.10sqm
Unit 4 Jade Garden Condo & Townhomes, Don Pedro St. Brgy Marulas
Minimum Bid Price P 3,529,235.00

Lot 28 – Res'l Lot LA 539 sqm
L4-B-2-E Tomasa St., Brgy Parada
Minimum Bid Price P 1,164,240.00

BATANGAS

Lot 29 - Res'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 311 sqm, FA 240 sqm
Provincial Rd. Brgy San Jose, Alitagtag
Minimum Bid Price P 715,300.00

Lot 30 - Res'l Lot LA 540 sqm
Lot 4 Malvar St, Poblacion, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,079,000.00

Lot 31 – Res'l Lot LA 288 sqm
L24 B7Anastacia St., VillaRosaSubd, Brgy. Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 604,800.00

Res'l Lots, Burgos St, Lipa Royale Subd, Brgy. Inosluban, Lipa City
Lot 32 – L11 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00
Lot 33 – L12 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00
Lot 34 – L13 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00

Res'l Lots, Tierra Vista Subd, Brgy. Sabang, Lipa City
Lot 35 – L29 Blk20 LA 208.79 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 396,701.00
Lot 36 – L34 Blk20 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 297,000.00
Lot 37 – L5 Blk22 LA 149.51 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 296,030.00
Lot 38 – L7 Blk22 LA 149.72 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 284,069.00
Lot 39 – L2 Blk12 LA 509 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 916,200.00

Lot 40 - Res'l Lot LA 211 sqm
Lot6672-F Rd. Lot 6672-K Brgy 2 Poblacion, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 474,750.00

Lot 41 - Res'l Lot LA 220 sqm
Lot6672-G Rd. Lot 6672-K Brgy. 2 Poblacion, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 495,000.00

Lot 42 - Res'l Lot LA 150 sqm
Rd. Lot 32 Victomar Subd, Brgy 4, Poblacion, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 378,000.00

Res'l. Lots, Las Villas de Aguila, Brgy. Bagong Sikat, Poblacion, Lemery
Lot 43 – L10 Blk5 LA 157.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 637,875.00
Lot 44 – L11 Blk5 LA 157.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 637,875.00
Lot 45 – L13 Blk5 LA 157.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 637,875.00
Lot 46 – L8 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 708,750.00

Res'l Lots, Rancho Vista Subd. Brgy. Santiago, Santo Tomas
Lot 47 – L16 Blk5 LA 725 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,522,500.00
Lot 48 - L44 Blk5 LA 469 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,055,250.00
Lot 49 - L19 Blk1 LA 867 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,820,700.00

CAVITE

Lot 50 - Res'l Lot LA 775 sqm
Lot10484-A Maguyam Rd. Brgy. Maguyam, Silang
Minimum Bid Price P 1,743,750.00

Lot 51 - Res'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA186sqm,FA83sqm L13 Blk19 Brazil St. FrancevilleExec Homes, Bulihan,Silang
Minimum Bid Price P 933,486.00

Lot 52 – Res'l Lot LA 163 sqm
L21 Blk8 Edelweiss St, NeighborhoodArea A, Park Place Subd., Brgy. Anabu, Imus
Minimum Bid Price P 735,300.00

Lot 53 - Res'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 240 sqm 416 Cabba Subd., Brgy Daang Amaya, Tanza
Minimum Bid Price P 703,891.00

LAGUNA

Res'l Lots, La Marea Ph1, San Pedro
Lot 54 - L13 Blk 1 LA 180 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 936,000.00
Lot 55 - L16 Blk 1 LA 245 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,274,000.00
Lot 56 - L18 Blk 8 LA 206 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,071,200.00

Lot 57–Res'l w/ Imprvmnt (w/ swimming pool) LA 630sqm, FA 234sqm
L2&1 Blk1 Jamaica Hills Subd, Brgy. Bambang, Los Baños
Minimum Bid Price P 2,716,827.00

Res'l Lots, Town & Country Southville Ph7 Biñan
Lot 58 – L3 Blk31 LA 112 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 257,600.00
Lot 59 – L5 Blk31 LA 112 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 257,600.00
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Lot 65 – L57 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
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There is gold in this town's garden

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—The perennial flooding in Hagonoy, 17 km north of here, has proven to be a blessing for this town.

Garden owners and landscape artists formerly based in Hagonoy were forced to relocate to Guiguinto and helped the town carve its name in the country's ornamental plant and landscaping industry map.

Travelers would know they are in Guiguinto because of the sight of nurseries filled with assorted types of ornamental plants in Barangay Tabang, along the North Luzon Expressway and along the MacArthur Highway.

Mayor Ambrocio Cruz, with his desire to awaken his town's economic potential and give it a distinct identity, conceptualized the holding of the annual "Halamanan Festival (Garden Festival)" six years ago to boost the local industry that has become a major livelihood for many residents.

For six years now, an area in Barangay Tabang has been serving as the exhibit and showcase area of contemporary landscape styles and of the most sought after ornamental garden plants.

Cruz encouraged the more than 700 families of gardeners, landscapers and plant artists to form a cooperative to help them improve the business and promote Guiguinto as the "garden city" of Bulacan.

He said almost a fourth of the town's 2,650-hectare land area has been converted into nurseries while 15 to 20 percent of the town's 75,000 residents are involved in the industry.

At least 80 landscape artists and garden owners and operators, all of them members of the Guiguinto Garden City Cooperative, maintain booths and exhibit areas in Tabang. Other operators maintain stalls inside Guiguinto's villages and private subdivisions.

Festival

On Jan. 22, Guiguinto held its 6th annual Halamanan Festival which coincided with the town's 90th founding anniversary. Garden owners and landscape designers competed in different design categories to showcase the industry.

BENEDICTOS find a winner in his floral image of Jesus.

Lorenzo Benedictos, owner of Boyet's Garden, topped the figure plant competition with his rendition of an image of the crucified Jesus Christ.

Benedictos, a native of Hagonoy and who inherited the business from his mother, says he learned to create images in plants five years ago during a casual talk with an expert in the field.

He creates a "figure plant" by shaping a metal frame into a desired shape and allowing a vine to cling to it and grow. It would take a month or two, depending on its size, to cover the entire frame with vines and create the "figure plant."

Benedictos says among his first figure plants were a reindeer and a rabbit.

He says he has done almost all types of animals and other objects, depending on the specifications of his clients.

However, his Chinese-Filipino clients, he says, dislike turtle, snake and snail designs.

"I have to follow what my Chinese customers are telling [because to them, specific figures would spell] luck in their businesses," he says.

Benedictos says he started helping his mother tend their plant and garden business when he was seven. Their business in Hagonoy, he says, sent him and his siblings to school.

When his mother died and when the perennial flooding in the coastal Hagonoy worsened, he decided to move into Guiguinto.

Perseverance

It was in 1983 when Benedictos started his garden business in this town with a capital of P3,500, good enough for his more than 100 pieces of assorted plants. He says he sold his carabao to raise the capital.

Since then, he says, his business grew through perseverance and help of his nine children.

He says the investment he poured into the business has reached between P600,000 and P1 million.

He buys plants from the private nurseries of garden owners here and in commercial nurseries in the villages of Borneo, Longos and Calumpang in Calumpit town and in Hagonoy.

His clients come mostly from Luzon provinces and Metro Manila but there are some from as far as the Visayas and Mindanao.

He says his brother, Andres, put up his own garden and landscape center in Pangasinan due to the high demand in the northern Luzon area.

He says the plant and garden business season is from September to April, with slow sales starting in the rainy months, from May to August.

During the peak season, his store sells from P100,000 to P200,000 worth of plants and contracts for garden designs and landscapes a month.

The 42-year-old Benedictos enjoys his business because gardening has also become a hobby for him and a major source of the family's income.

"*Habang nagtatanim kami at nakikita naming lumalaki at namumulaklak ang aming mga halaman, may bumibili naman nito na aming ikinabubuhay, kaya masarap ang hanapbuhay na ito* (As we watch our plants grow and their flowers bloom, people get interested and sustain the business. We enjoy this kind of job)," he said.

Round plants

Couple Mariano and Belen Miranda topped the topiary category (round plants) during the festival.

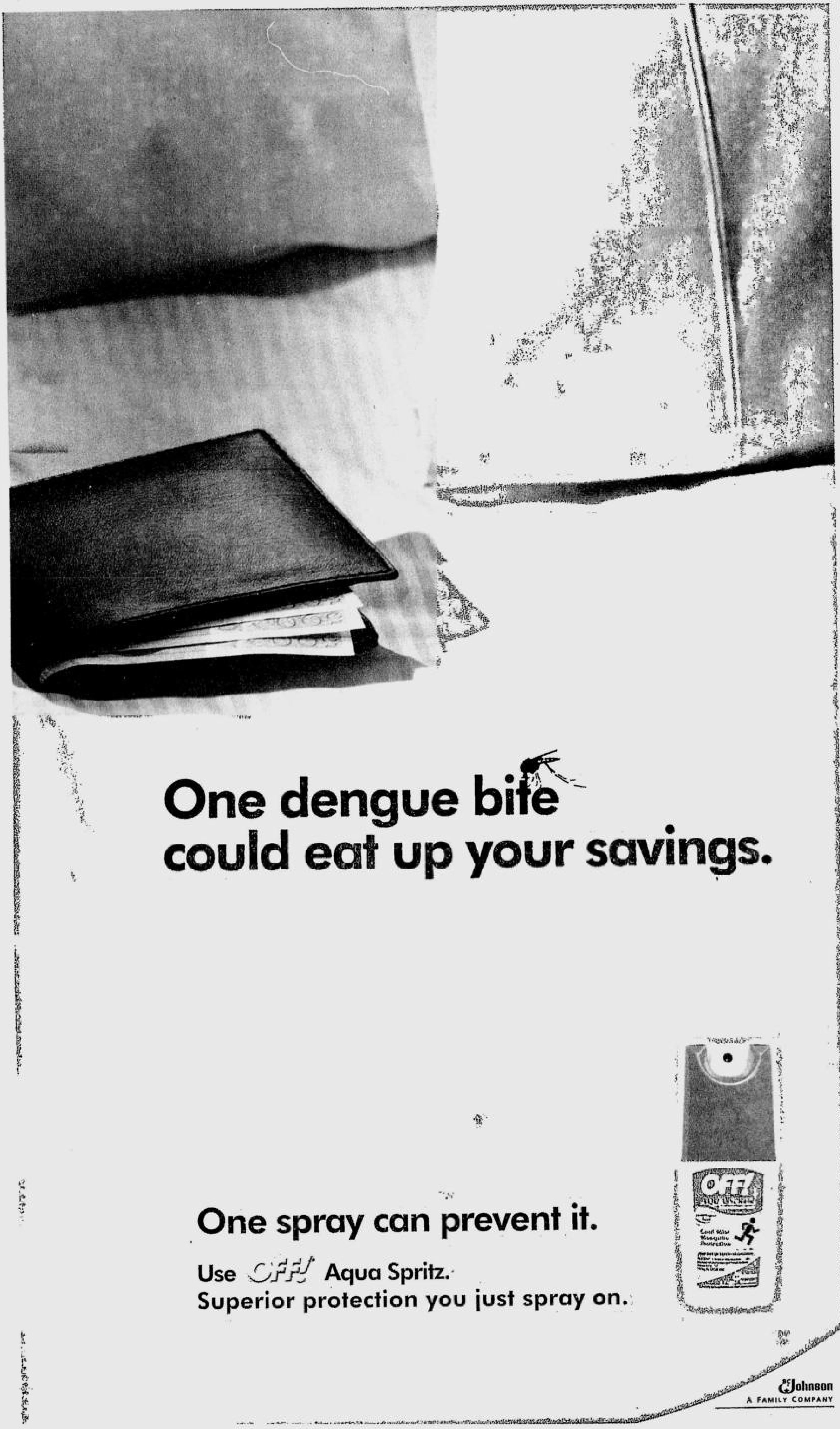
The Mirandas are natives of Hagonoy but migrated to this town in 1979 and started with the business through a P500 capital.

Now, their investment has reached more than P300,000. Through the business, the couple bought house and lot and send their children and grandchildren to school.

Belen says she inherited the business from her mother, also a native of Hagonoy. Now, she and her husband sell from P15,000 to P30,000 worth of plants a month.

She says since November, business has been good, prompting them to believe that there really is gold in this town's gardens and soil.

PERENNIAL flooding proved to be a blessing for Guiginto folks.



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Rediscovering a high-end hub

Like all niche malls, The Podium is a work in progress so it keeps updating shops, services and events to satisfy a very discriminating clientele

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

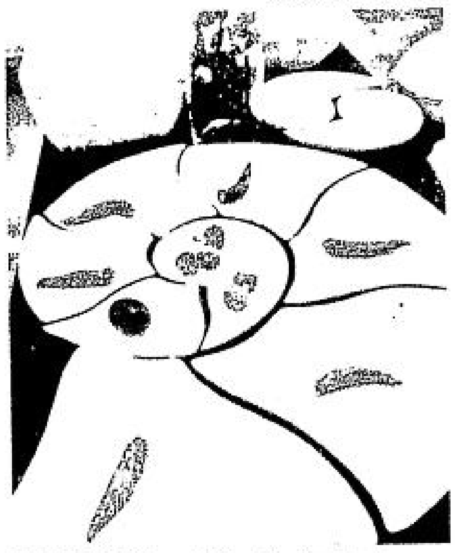
AN UPSCALE market deserves nothing less than first-rate service and entertainment. That is why The Podium insists on putting on only select cultural events and performances by internationally acclaimed artists to suit the discriminating tastes of its clientele. The mall, after all, is located on ADB Avenue in the Ortigas Center, a song away from the Asian Development Bank.

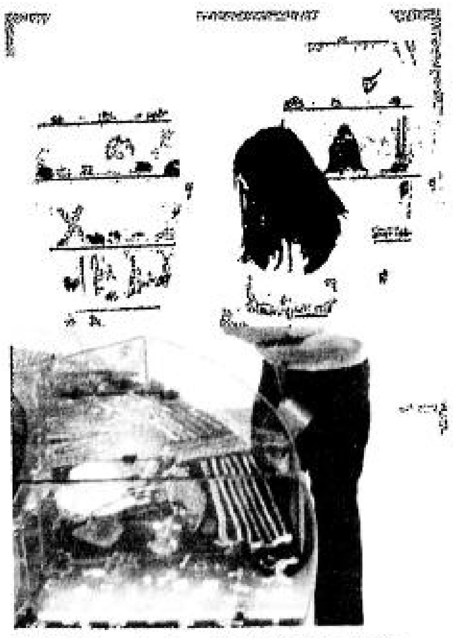
For the month of February, The Podium, with the British Council, presents a series of jazz concerts in "Jazz in Love," featuring Pinay divas Isha and Mishka Adams (Feb. 11 and 18, respectively) and Johnny Alegre Affinity (Feb. 25). All three top-notch Pinoy jazz artists have previously performed in the United Kingdom.

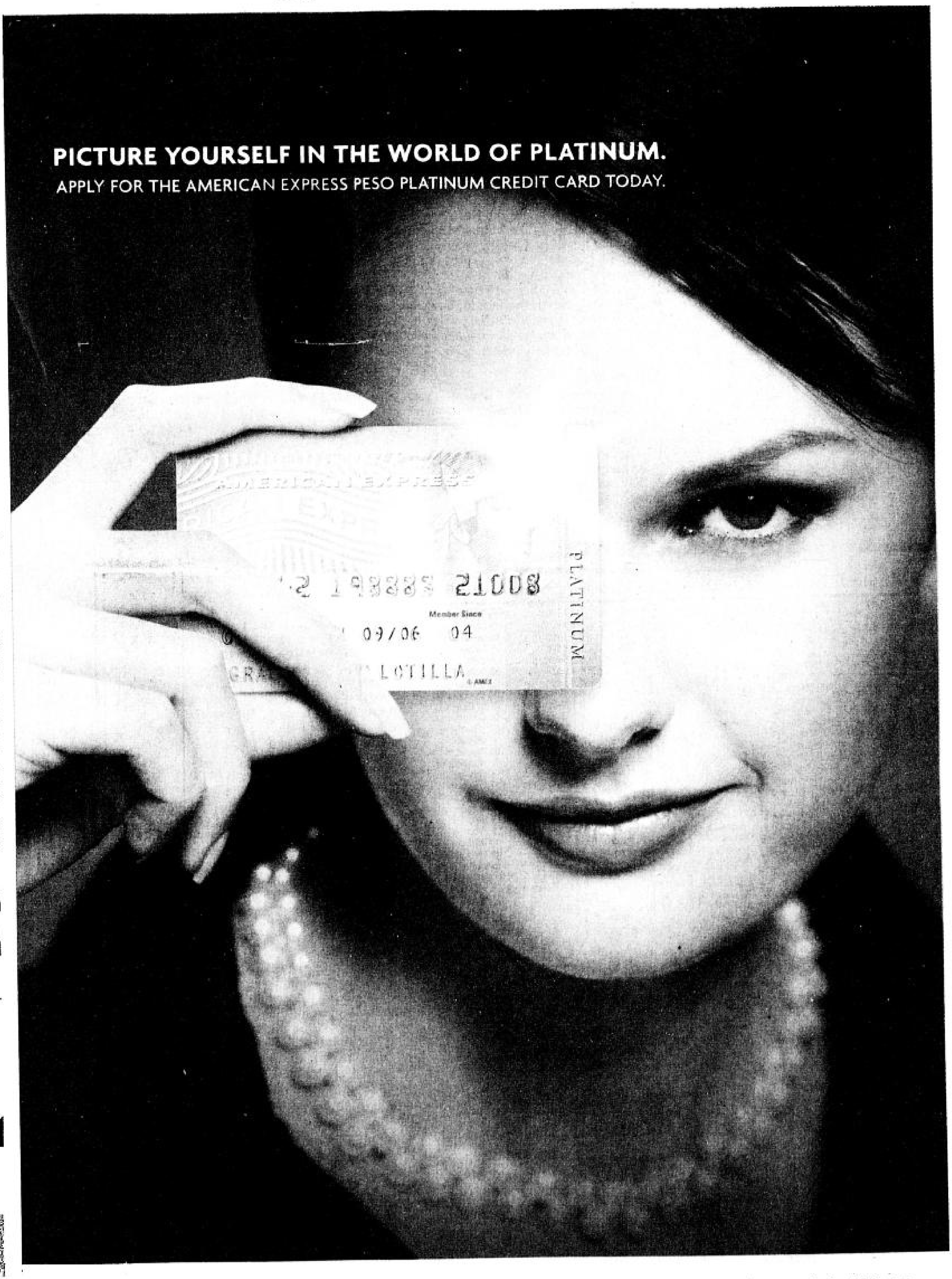
"We have an upscale AB crowd—families, expats, corporate executives, residents of nearby condominiums and villages, and art lovers who like attending our cultural events," says mall manager Steven Tan.

An SM team plans the cultural events based on guidelines from the management and The Podium's Singapore partner company, the Keppel Group, which infuses an international perspective to the selection process. The partnership cleverly combines SM's expertise in developing shopping destinations and Keppel's strong branding and international network.

REDISCOVERING/ C4


PORCELAIN from China, Portugal and France are among other unique kitchen and household items at Living Well.


SILVER jewelry from Italy, Mexico, India, Thailand at Gallery 925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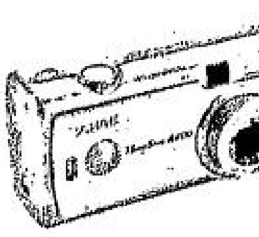

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The Manobo ascension to heaven

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

By Elena Maquiso and Gilda Cordero-Fernando

Scholarly Note: This is a very old Filipino epic once chanted by the (Livunganen Arumanen) Manobos of North Cotabato that concerns one of many adventures of their mythical hero, Agyu. It was researched by Dr. Elena Maquiso in the 1960s from the last of its chanters and published in 1977 in original Manobo language with her own English translation as "Ulahingan" in Silliman University's Humanities Publication Series 1.

There are three versions of Agyu's ascension, as sung by different chanters. This is a composite version, rewritten in literary form for general readership. It is an acknowledgement of "the rare gifts of creativity and imagination of poor, uneducated, mostly mountain people, responding to life in a sensitive manner, uniquely their own." It is Philippine literature in its purest form.

I. THE TRIBUTE

It had been decreed by the Sultan of Magindanao that their Manobo subjects were to render tribute after every harvest. It was to be in the form of rice, wild honey, beeswax and resin. Failure to pay the tribute meant slavery which often led to death. The ruling clan, to which Agyu belonged, was assessed one sack of already-cleaned rice, one bamboo tube of honey, beeswax as big as a mortar and 50 bundles of resin. These were to be delivered before they partook of their own harvest.

The head of ruling clan, Pemulew, called his brothers Agyu, Lemena and Banlak, the Manobo elders and the other heads of families together to decide whether they should pay the tribute to the Sultan in spite of their poor forthcoming harvest. It was agreed that they would pay it for the last time.

When harvest time came, however, there was nothing left to give as tribute. Pemulew was summoned to the palace. "What do you mean," asked the sultan angrily, "That you Manobos have brought me nothing?"

"The harvest is so small," explained Pemulew, "that paying the tribute is impossible. There will be nothing left for us to eat."

The Sultan was enraged. "Here and now I am issuing a decree that Pemulew and his followers are to pay three times the amount of the previous tribute," he announced. "If they cannot meet this requirement they will be put to work felling timber and clearing lands as slaves the rest of their lives."

Upon arriving home Pemulew hurriedly called another conference. After much discussion they decided, for fear of the powerful sultan, to abide by the requirement though it was much beyond their capacity to give. "It must be ready in seven days," Pemulew reminded his people.

On the seventh day the Manobos assembled to contribute their individual shares. They walked to the palace and Pemulew presented the gifts to the ruler who noted angrily that the tribute was way below the mandated requirement. Again Pemulew explained the people's predicament.

"Accept our gifts," begged Pemulew, "and we promise to take the balance to you upon the next harvest in addition to the yearly tribute." The Sultan grudgingly consented and Pemulew begged to be allowed to leave.

II. Kuyasu

On the way home, Kuyasu, Pemulew's son, was limping due to the bleeding yaws on his feet. He had been suffering from those sores for some time now. To help himself walk, Kuyasu used the beautiful spear of his father as a cane. He was very mad at his father for meekly submitting to the outrageous demands of the cruel Sultan.

"How can I possibly fill my share of the tribute when I can hardly walk?" he said. "Go on ahead, father, and all of you, I shall go back and explain my condition to the Sultan." Pemulew tried to dissuade the hot-headed Kuyasu from going back to the palace but he was adamant. So Pemulew asked Banlak to accompany his son Kuyasu.

The sultan asked the two Manobos why they had returned. Kuyasu explained that he was good at gathering honey. The size of his share, however, was impossible for him to deliver because of the yaws on his feet. The Sultan asked to see the wounds. Kuyasu stretched out his diseased feet for the Sultan to see. The depraved ruler got his knife and thrust its tip into a gaping sore.

Kuyasu screamed with pain. He lifted the spear of Pemulew which served as his cane and with all his strength thrust the weapon into the Sultan's belly. "Enjoy this wound from a pitiful man!" he shouted. Then he ran as fast as his painfully bleeding feet would allow.

As soon as Kuyasu and Banlak got home they told Pemulew what had happened. Pemulew was dismayed. "We have committed a crime against the Magindanaos," he said. "We cannot expect help from anybody. There will be no safe place for us."

Agyu, the other brother, was away hunting when it happened. The people begged Pemulew that they run away immediately. "We have no choice," Banlak said. "We have to leave our homes right way."

"You may go if you wish," their leader, Pemulew, told the surprised Manobos. "As for me I shall stay, for the spear I inherited from my grandfather is not yet with me."

"You value that spear more than your life?" Banlak asked exasperatedly. "It's not even gold!"

But Pemulew was determined to stay. His followers however, would not leave without him although their belongings were prepared for departure. "We have only to wait for one person," the people said, "and it is for your brother Agyu. I hope he agrees with our decision."

Just as the sun was setting, they saw Agyu approaching with a huge load on his back. He was carrying 27 wild pigs already cut into pieces. Agyu was surprised to find the people's belongings in bundles. "What has happened?" asked Agyu, as he put down his load.

"We are in danger," explained the other brothers. "Kuyasu was enraged by the Sultan and plunged the spear into the royal belly."

"Why have you not run for your lives then?" Agyu asked.

"Pemulew does not want to leave," explained some of the followers, "Otherwise you would not have found us here. Pemulew refuses to leave without his precious spear."

Agyu tried to convince his eldest brother but Pemulew was adamant. Knowing that this would be a long argument, Agyu ordered Banlak to apportion the meat he had brought for his followers in the traditional warrior's way.

Agyu declared that he would see the Sultan himself. "I do not need a companion for this trip," he said. "I would like to go by myself."

At early dawn Agyu left carrying a bolo and a spear. The Magindanaos were not alarmed at his arrival in the palace. They showed no hostility and Agyu went directly upstairs.

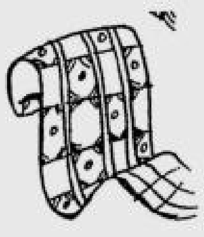
The *ba'i*, or Sultan's lady, met him. "I am relieved that you have come," she said cordially. "Yesterday, Pemulew's son, Kuyasu speared the sultan and now he is lying in bed hovering between life and death. The weapon is still lodged in his stomach.

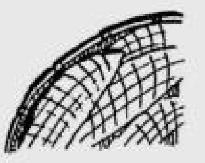
"Would you perchance know a cure?"

"The purpose of my visit is really to attend to the Sultan," said Agyu. "First, I must remove the spear for that is the only way the wound can heal."

"That gives me great relief," said the *ba'i*.

"I am going to spend the night here," said Agyu. "When darkness falls I would like all your people to cover the holes in the walls and floors of their houses and every crack. They must shut the windows and the doors. I do not want to be seen. Only you *ba'i*, and I will stay in the palace. Everyone else must move to the neighboring houses. Only when the sun is shining brightly are the windows and doors to be opened."





A big basket was prepared for the gifts the *ba'i* promised Agyu for the cure of the Sultan's wound. In it were 10 jars of salt, 10 bolos, 10 axes and 10 rolls of cloth.

When night came, Agyu went to the room of the Sultan and found him suffering under the mosquito net. "Where is the wound?" he asked, the very same question asked by the Sultan of Kuyasu.

"It is here," replied the Sultan meekly, baring his big, soft belly. Agyu saw the spear still firmly stuck into it. He took hold of the handle and tried to pull it out little by little. The Sultan screamed in pain. Agyu told the *ba'i* that he would have to wait until dawn to administer the cure.

When dawn came the neighboring houses were silent, all the apertures sealed. With the *bai's* permission Agyu went downstairs and arranged all the gifts given to him in the big basket which he placed on the stump of a tree. Then he returned upstairs.

"Do your cure now," urged the *ba'i*.

Agyu told the wife to turn her back. "Nobody must look while the cure is going on," he admonished. Agyu crawled under the mosquito net and felt for the handle of the spear. He tugged it a bit to see if it could pull out easily. He asked the cruel Sultan if he was now ready for the cure and told him to close his eyes. The Sultan murmured his thanks.

Firmly Agyu took hold of the spear, pushed it in hard then pulled it out with all his might. The spear point made an appearance, hung with pieces of the Sultan's entrails.

> Firmly Agyu took hold of the spear, pushed it in hard, then pulled it out with all his might. The spear point made an appearance, hung with pieces of the Sultan's entrails

Agyu left with a trail of intestines behind him. On his way out he got the big basket of presents.

When the *ba'i* realized what had happened she screamed for help and fainted. Those in the neighboring houses could not hear anything for all the doors and windows were closed. Only in the morning when the Magindanaos finally opened their doors and windows did they go after Agyu.

The pursuers could not find a single footprint. All they saw were wild chicken scratches. They spent the whole day looking for Agyu but to their frustration could see no sign of him. Instead they always found themselves back in the same spot where they started. The Manobos took this as a sign of favor from the *diwatas*.

Agyu went directly to his brother and threw the spear in front of Pemulew. "Here is your precious spear. I almost lost my life!"

Pemulew merely smiled. "From now on," he told Agyu, "You will be our leader. I am getting old."

"Let us plan our flight then," Agyu said. "It won't be long before the Magindanaos get here."

At dawn the following day they could sense the presence of the Magindanaos in the vicinity. They ran to the forest leaving most of their food behind. Under cover of darkness, however, they would steal back to get provisions. The Manobos did this again and again until all their rice, *kamote*, corn and other crops were finished. Then they faced the difficulty of looking for food. They could not plant anything for they were always on the run.

The fugitives subsisted on wild roots and yams or an occasional pig or deer if they were lucky. Sometimes they had nothing to eat for days. But still their strength increased. This sustained energy made it possible for Agyu and his younger brother Lemena to carry big trunks of palm trees from which they could extract starch. The Magindanaos who were responding to the alarm raised by the palace arrived always just after the Manobos left.

(To be continued next Sunday)

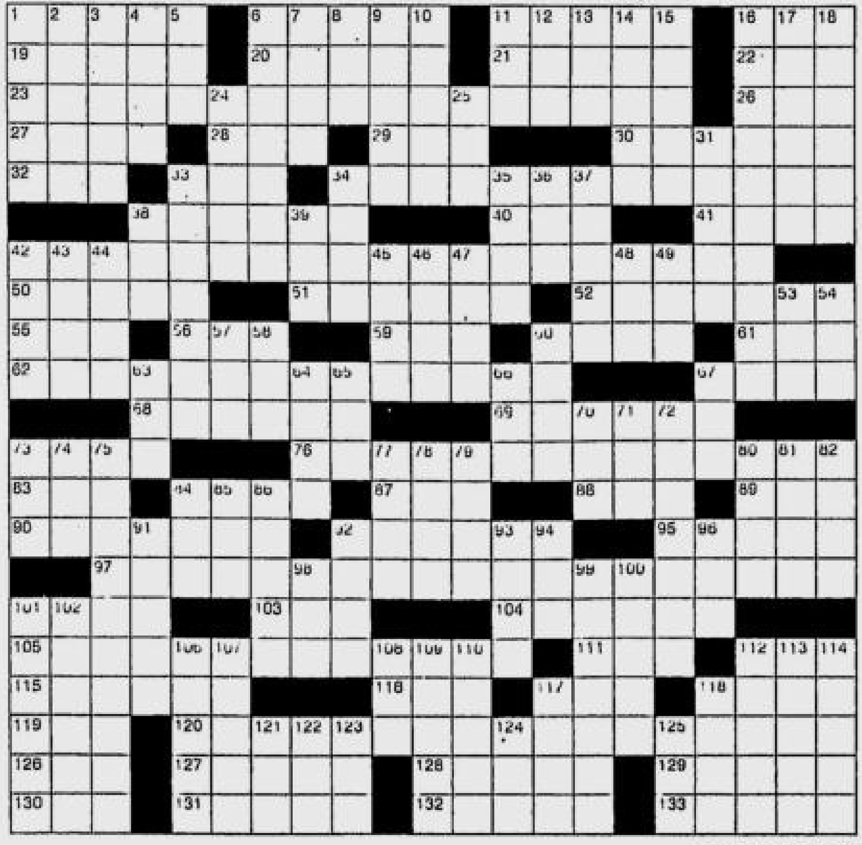
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

WHERE?

ACROSS
1 Jested
6 Wise men
11 Useful thing
16 Aves.
19 Very sore
20 Actuality
21 Orca, e.g.
22 On the — vive
23 Charles Darwin work
26 Big coffeepot
27 Slaughter of baseball
28 Affront, to Eminem
29 Abate
30 Bonkers
32 Sea plea
33 Razor brand
34 Entrust to a third party
38 NAFTA nation
40 China's Chou En- —
41 Cacklers
42 Classic novel of 1936
50 Bind anew
51 Shining
52 Plantain relatives
55 Punk/folk singer DiFranco
56 ER figures
59 Part of ENT
60 Unmatched
61 Japanese sash
62 "And that's the way it is" newscaster
67 Salt Lake City team
68 Slangy segue
69 Clownery
73 Vivacity
76 Best Actress winner for "Monster"
83 Maui memento
84 Soak up rays
87 Low in a lea
88 Busy — bee
89 Prior to
90 Countertop surfacing stuff
92 Comic Dangerfield
95 "Bedtime for —"
97 1962 adventure film based on a Jules Verne tale
101 Folkie Ochs
103 Spike TV, formerly
104 Lassie, e.g.
105 1965 Beatles concert venue
111 Gore and Capp
112 "Big Blue"
115 Punctual
116 Santa —
117 Eminent leader?
118 Opera opus
119 San Francisco's — Valley
120 "Jinxed" novelist
126 Goof
127 Ward off
128 End
129 — Nast
130 — Plaines, IL
131 Identified gender
132 Lamb product
133 Bern-born

DOWN
1 Gets into swing
2 Maine city
3 Flattens in the ring
4 Guesses at LAX
5 Ph.D., e.g.
6 Not showing feelings
7 Barks
8 Belly
9 Waters of jazz
10 "Come Back, Little —"
11 Bedazzle
12 Doo-wop syllable
13 Hang down
14 Ewing matriarch
15 Preadults
16 It may join the ends of two cords
17 Switch into operation
18 Tendons
24 City near Minneapolis
25 Telly network
31 Neutral vowel sound
33 Some ballplayers
34 Spasm
35 K-6
36 Response to "Are you?"
37 Weeper of myth
38 Nero's 901
39 1950 film noir
42 Attract
43 Sofer of soaps
44 Elec. or water, e.g.
45 Singer Campbell
46 Furniture wood
47 Mata —
48 Owns
49 Little colonist
53 Penny prez
54 Jo, to Meg
57 Out of ink
58 Univ., e.g.
60 Mercedes- —
63 Ecru
64 Music genre
65 Aah's partner
66 Mai —
67 Function
70 Oolong, e.g.
71 "— a girl!"
72 Dry white Burgundy
73 Pixie
74 Writer Rosten
75 Allergy assuagers, perhaps
77 Frenzied
78 Dipsticks, e.g.
79 Anderson of TV
80 "Splitsville, U.S.A."
81 Ricelike pasta
82 Vegas light
84 ROY G. —
85 Expert
86 Took care of
91 Metric prefix
92 Tear up
93 SASE, e.g.
94 NBA star Ming
96 Pedro's cheer
98 Ambient musician Brian
99 Ireland's — stone
100 Everything, in Essen
101 Called up
102 Novelist — de Balzac
106 Places to work out or play b-ball
107 Intertwine
108 "Humbug!"
109 In reserve
110 Salary
112 From Teheran
113 They're found at the end of 23, 34, 42, 62, 76, 97, 105, and 120 Across
114 Constructs
117 Leaning Tower of —
118 "That's — blow!"
121 Novelist Stout
122 Pay dirt
123 Overseas "Inc."
124 82-Down, e.g.
125 IV units



answer on page F3

Guess right and win prizes

SHOPWISE Supercenters has launched the ongoing weekly promo, "You can win if the price is right." It is patterned after the long-running TV game show where customers can win exciting showcases by correctly guessing the actual retail price.

The customer whose guess is closest to (but does not exceed) the actual retail price of the showcase of the week (which includes the Great Outdoors, Baby Talk, It's a Man's World, Sweet Dreams, Homewise and Travel) has the chance to take home the featured showcase.

One player will be selected every week to compete in the final pricing game on March 13 to be held in all stores. The promo runs until March 3.

What most people appreciate about Shopwise is that it is all-inclusive. It works on the principle of "democratized quality" where customers are treated to quality shopping at a price within the reach of everyone.

"It's not a warehouse concept," says Lydia Castillo, who regularly shops in Shopwise Alabang (at the Festival Supermall), "but I see people coming here, in jeeps and pickups, piling high their shopping carts with goods that are clearly meant for resell in their sari-sari stores."

Castillo, a cookbook author and magazine columnist who goes to market and then tells her readers what she has in her basket, where she got them and at what prices, gives high grades to Shopwise's seasonal sales of meats (especially the rib-eye steak) and such finds as the yellow, red and green capsicum, the variety of salad greens and salad dressings, the excellent loaf breads (particularly the potato bread), the macadamia nuts and the young herbs in pretty pots.

Chari Bagatsing, a recent Shopwise convert, was surprised at the "interesting" variety of the merchandise, from grocery goods to appliances to sports, fashion, family, home, travel items, all on one floor in Shopwise Makati (on Chino Roces Avenue corner Pablo Ocampo Extension).

"You can imagine how convenient it is for many women not to be pushing their carts up and down several levels," she says.

A longtime patron of Shopwise Alabang is Julie Gamboa, owner of Milky Way. She regularly orders, in bulk, fresh meats (especially the premium pork chop and spare ribs), fish, vegetables, and canned goods for use in her restaurants and at home—"Practically all I need to buy," she says.

The bonus? "*Meron ka pang* reward points." And a sheaf of raffle tickets, with which she once won a TV set.

Two-day convention tackles new trends in education

JOIN the First Philippine Multiple Intelligence Convention with the theme "Changing Minds: Teaching and Parenting for the 21st Century," Feb. 11-12, at the Manila Hotel.

Guest speaker is Dr. Howard Gardner, who is credited with transforming the American educational system for the 21st century through his theory of multiple intelligences.

The convention was organized by the Multiple Intelligence International School Foundation, Inc. in Quezon City.

Gardner, a professor of education at Harvard University, developed the theory of multiple intelligences in 1983 suggesting that the traditional notion based on IQ (intelligence quotient) testing, was far too limited. He proposed eight different intelligences to account for a broader range of human potential in children and adults.

The intelligences are:

- Musical intelligence ("music smart")
- Interpersonal intelligence ("people smart")
- Intrapersonal intelligence ("self smart")
- Naturalist intelligence ("nature smart")
- Linguistic intelligence ("word smart")
- Logical-mathematical intelligence ("number smart")
- Spatial intelligence ("picture smart")
- Bodily-kinesthetic intelligence ("body smart")

Gardner says schools and culture focus most of their attention on linguistic and logical-mathematical intelligence. Highly articulate or logical people are respected. However, he says attention should also be paid to individuals who show gifts in the other intelligences: artists, architects, musicians, naturalists, designers, dancers, therapists, entrepreneurs and others who help enrich the world.

He says many children who have other gifts do not receive much encouragement in school.

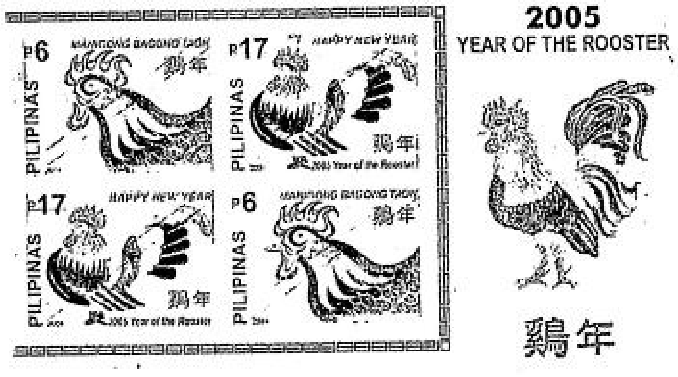
The theory of multiple intelligences means a major transformation in the way schools operate. Teachers have to be trained to present lessons in a wide variety of ways using music, cooperative learning, art activities, role play, multimedia, field trips, inner reflection and much more.

The theory of multiple intelligences has captured the interest of many educators in the US and hundreds of schools are currently redesigning the way they educate children.

But in the Philippines, majority of schools still follow the traditional way, using lectures, worksheets and textbooks.

Dr. Gardner has written more than 20 books and several hundred articles on human intelligence, education, creativity and leadership.

E-mail miconvention@michildsplace.com.ph; call 4334949 and 9280143 or fax 4334948. Visit http://www.michilsplace.com.ph/convention_register.htm.



Year of the Rooster stamps

THE PHILIPPINE Postal Corporation (Philpost) has come up with the Year of the Rooster stamps series to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The stamps are now available in all post offices nationwide.

These colorful designs were done by PhilPost in-house designers Jesus Alfredo D. de los Santos and Alfonso V. Divina.

The Rooster is included in the 12 animals of the Chinese Zodiac. According to one's particular year of birth, the others may be born in the year of the rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, dog or pig.

Postmaster general Dario C. Rama said that stamps, souvenir sheets and official first-day covers are on sale at the Philatelic Service, Door 203, Liwasang Bonifacio, 1000 Manila.

Call 5270132.

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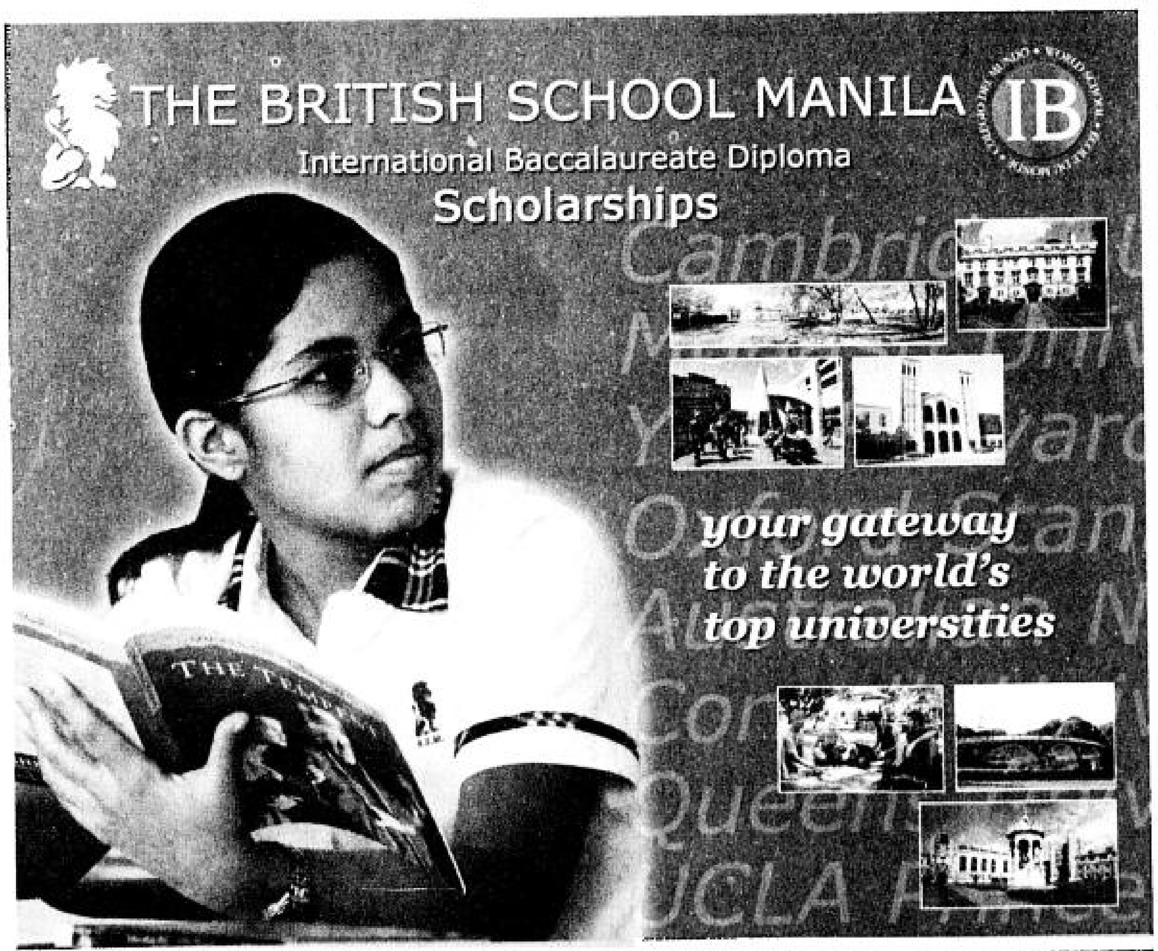
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Please apply submitting a copy of your latest transcript and a 500 word written essay on the statement that **"Sometimes we get all the information but refuse to get the message."** Please fill in the contact detail slip below and send with your essay on or before **1st March 2005.**

Shortlisted applicants will receive further details.

The British School Manila will be launching the scholarship programme on the **19 February 2005 5:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.** at the British Council Education Fair, Edsa Shangri-la, Mandaluyong. The Education Fair will run from 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on 18th - 19th February 2005.

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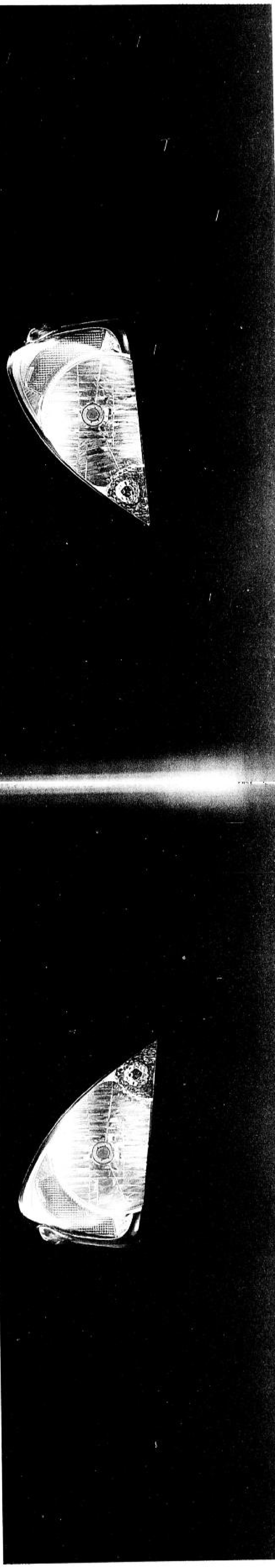
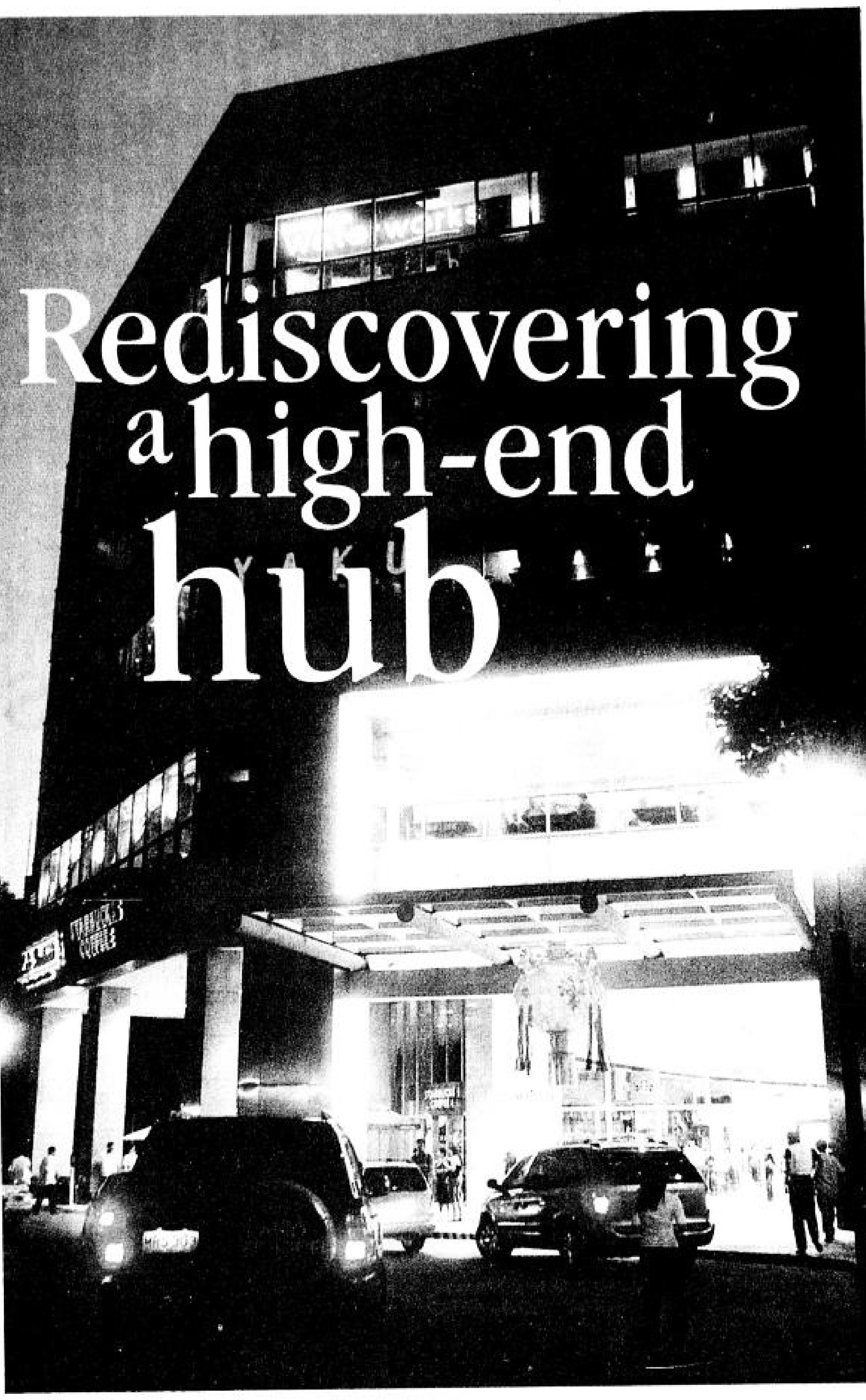


Rediscovering a high-end hub



IMPORTED blooms and flower arrangement services at Pacific Blooms

THE EXCLUSIVE distributor of Cleveland golf gear is Pacsport on the third level.

THIS Victorinox shop on the second level is the exclusive distributor of the brand's luggage line.

NAIL spa treatments at the Lotus Nail Spa located on the lower ground level

THE KABUKI Kimono is just one of the unique arts and cultural events held every month at The Podium.

GOURMET food and over 400 wines from the select vineyards around the globe at Terry Selection

From page C1

Last year, The Podium staged, among a diverse mix of cultural events, the First Philippine Animation Festival that featured local talents as well as award-winning French and Japanese animation films; the Kabuki Kimono fashion show featuring Japan's best; Euro 2004, which showcased Europe's premiere football event through live telecast and an exhibit of football memorabilia; a photo exhibit of Germany's talented lensman Ralph Tooten; a weekend of discovering Singapore with instant prizes; and a Christmas around the world display.

GERMAN leathergoods at Braun Büffel

"By staging such events, The Podium can make coming to the mall a more interesting experience, and hopefully establish a niche for cultural exhibits and performances," explains Milagros F. Dizon, SM Group's first vice president.

Positive feedback

So far, she says, The Podium has received only positive feedback for its effort to promote the arts. A growing number of customers looks forward to the mall's art and cultural showcase each month.

This year, mall-goers can expect more filmfests, performances by international artists, art exhibits, as well as travel-related events in partnership with different embassies.

Niche malls like the Podium are upscale malls with forward-looking design elements and upmarket specialty stores and restaurants, says Tan.

Keeping in mind that The Podium serves young professionals and residents of swanky homes nearby, the mall is home to more than 130 upscale and midrange shops and restaurants. With a five-level basement parking, it recently launched its valet service for its upscale clients.

Choosing tenants is a work in progress, Tan says. The Podium constantly updates its stores and restaurants through research and by observing trends here and abroad. This is the reason the make-up of the present mall is different from when it opened in 2002.

TK, for instance, a Toy Kingdom branch, only sells high-end toys. Unlike most toy shops, toys in TK are distributed in designated areas according to category to make kids' shopping experience a breeze.

There are the Zoids, Bike, Preschool, Hot Wheels, Educational and Anime Areas, as well as a Cuddly Corner for stuffed toys and an Interactive Zone equipped with X Box, PS2, Nintendo and Gameboy where kids, and adults, can play for free.

Specialty shops

The Podium is also the only mall around that has a gourmet shop that offers over 400 choice wines from all over the world, including the vintage 1994 Grand Vin Chateau de Latour valued at almost P30,000.

Terry Selection, owned by oenologist Juan Carlos de Terry, brims with over a hundred excellent cheeses, rows upon rows of various bottled gourmet products, and other fine dining goodies. There's even a bistro where De Terry himself cooks on some days.

The outdoor space with rows of cafés, bars and restaurants is now the Chill Area where clients can dine al fresco and, on weekends, listen to live music. The Lounge Area is located at the second level where shoppers can unwind to live acoustic music.

The Podium's lower ground level has been fashioned into a smart hobby and service center, with laundry, tailor, telecom, electronics, courier, barber and photo shops, as well as dental and hearing centers, party organizers, art galleries, etc. Like every floor of this six-level mall, the lower ground level is not without its share of snack bars and gourmet stores.

Markedly absent from the mall is an anchor

BUSINESS and nonfiction books are the topsellers of Ink & Stone bookshop.

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TROPLUS. The largest outlet for original VCDs, DVDs and CDs, with iophile's Den, Kid's Closet and Power Shack

AUTHENTIC Japanese food at Akiga on the ground level

department store, and in its place, as Tan points out, is an interesting mix of unique concept shops and specialty restaurants.

New concept stores and specialty shops exclusive to The Podium include Braun Buffel, which specializes in fine German leather goods; Pacific Blooms for all kinds of flower arrangements, including a queen-sized poster bed with rose petal sheets; Steltz, distributors of lamps and lighting fixtures by Philippe Starck, Marcelo Ziliani, Matteo Thun, Rodolfo Dordoni, among other world-renowned industrial designers; Victorinox, the only shop that carries the brand's sturdy luggage line; Wildflower by Inky Nakpil, where customers can choose from a variety of Swarovski designs—or create their own—to be permanently "glued" to their tops or jeans; Italian fashion retailers GAS and Sisley for the trendiest of jeans and tops for men and women; World of Feng Shui, which carries accessories to ward off bad luck and offers consultation as well.

The retail area is composed of fashion boutiques, home specialty stores, jewelry shops, shoe outlets, a toy superstore, sports shops, appliance center, novelty shops. Eating-out options include a gourmet deli, specialty restaurants ranging from Japanese to Italian to Continental to Filipino and other Asian cuisine, coffee shops and dessert outlets. The Podium also has two state-of-the-art cinemas.

As Tan puts it, "The Podium is much like an exclusive community... where clients can drive down, park, pick up laundry, have a nail spa and buy delicatessen at the deli. Service is very important [as well as] security."

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

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BATCH '80 Assumption-La Salle benefit fashion show organizers

Still lucky in the Year of the Rooster

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

FOR WELL-HEELED book aficionados, Fully Booked at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell has a wide variety of coffee-table books and other hardbound titles. When my shopping urge arises for some interior design ideas I head toward this store, usually after I deposit my kids in their corner of the animated world of Nickelodeon.

Just recently, I found myself exploring heretofore unexplored sections which yielded finds such as books on yoga during pregnancy, baby arts and crafts, parenting magazines and more.

I wonder how much you can tell about a person by the section he or she is interested in. When I see a grown man in the kids' section checking out the latest Spongebob Squarepants books, he might as well have a sign on his head declaring, "I'm taken!"

Then there are the single girls in the wedding books section, virtually telling us where they are headed. But what about the guys in the photography section looking through Mapplethorpe books, are they artists with a certain gender preference?

My new discovery is a stand near the counter with little pocketbooks—for birthdays and their astrological sun signs, the Chinese zodiac and all sorts of fun, lucky information we never knew we needed in order to be winners in the cosmic lottery. Naturally, I couldn't resist and got a slew of books for my whole family and my closest friends.

> I intend to offset my bad luck this year by doing good deeds, working on self-cultivation and keeping peace

Most of the people I know who are born in January are such sociable, fun-loving creatures. I actually only realized this lately, from my relationship with my January-born, 7-year-old **Annika**. My other two children and I are all Virgos. Other accomplished Aquarius ladies, such as **Tina Ocampo** and **Loren Legarda**, who share birthdays on Jan. 28, have very similar traits.

According to the little book, they are detached, inventive and passionately interested in the world of ideas. They channel this vibrant mental vitality towards humanitarian pursuits. Because of their selfless, altruistic nature, many view them as visionaries. Well, just like any horoscope, all this touchy-feely stuff should just be taken with a grain of salt.

Joint birthday party

Coincidentally, Loren and Tina recently celebrated their birthdays with a joint dinner party at the former's cozy, tropical home. The intimate gathering was an eccentric but interesting mix of friends from the jazz of the show-biz world to the razzmatazz of the political arena to the pizzazz of the business field.

Fully adjusted back to the domestic world from her years of stressful government service, Loren has found time to enjoy her two sons more, which she didn't realize how much she missed. Tina, on the other hand, had already "retired" from the retail management side of their businesses with equally enterprising husband **Ricco**, but has just recently opened a new chic boutique called Atelier M. I guess you just can't keep a stylish lady in the house too long, which can only mean that Loren, too, is destined to return to the political fray.

Another pair born on the first month of the year is **EJ** and **Tess Litton**. In a birthday-cum-thanksgiving celebration for EJ's recovery from cancer, the couple shared a Strumm's-style evening with celebrities in and out of show biz at BG's, hosted by EJ's buddy, **Choy Cojuangco**. The couple indeed have a lot to be thankful for, especially their supportive and comforting family and friends.

Cautioned by a geomancer, those born in the Year of the Rabbit (like me) will have a tough year ahead because of the bad alignment of the stars. But doing good deeds, working on self-cultivation and keeping peace can help save big projects. There is a prevailing, big-spending star (as if this star has ever left my side) that will require budgeting and cost cutting to stay afloat. For better luck, put pig or ram figures around the house and wear white or yellow.

Charity

Cueing in on all these tips, I started doing some good deeds like playing Florence Nightingale to my husband **Dennis** (still recuperating from a helicopter crash) and hosting/helping out in the joint fundraiser fashion show of Assumption and La Salle Batch '80. The "Assumpta Con Verde" was indeed a success with the high turnout of silver alumni from both schools. Guests stayed on to reminisce and dance the night away to high school tunes, courtesy of the Route 70 Band.

The Green ArcheRs batch head, **Ram Antonio**, told me their fundraising efforts are for the scholars for the Adult Night School and for their silver celebration. Meanwhile, Assumption Batch '80 head, **Jeannie Javelosa**, is building funds for the Assumption Mission Schools. The smashing event had the personalities on the ramp wearing fashionable clothes provided by Stores Specialists' **Anton Huang**. From senators to First Daughter **Luli Arroyo** to show-biz celebrities to doctors and mothers, the fashion scene has never seen such a charitable group of models.

It was even more amusing to see how the guys we used to date or just hang out with have matured (in personality and in weight, too). None of my friends ended up with their high-school boyfriends who were mostly from La Salle, but we have so many fond memories of those carefree days. I did end up with a La Sallite though the Bacolod version, which for me is wonderfully more down-to-earth.

Date with Russell

With Valentine's Day next week, there are just so many concerts to attend though we might just have a DVD dinner in the house with the kids. But one concert that I will surely attend is that of British tenor **Russell Watson**. His upcoming concert at the PICC Plenary on Feb. 10, will surely be so romantic as he sings his contemporary versions of classic tunes with his operatic voice. I will just keep my phone on so I can share the night with Dennis while I hold my TV co-host **Anton San Diego**'s hand.

Today is my "Guess the Gender" party for my baby (praying for a girl to be named Athena), after Annika's fashion show party and a Thanksgiving Mass. With each day as a blessing, I have learned to appreciate life even more and I don't need a horoscope book to tell me that!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

HAPPY Litton clan. EJ and Tess Litton with kids, Angela, Tara, Belle and Wee-J and parents Johnny and Tere Litton

LA SALLE boys Raffy Cosmi, Eric Inigo, Nando Pahati and Allan Cruz

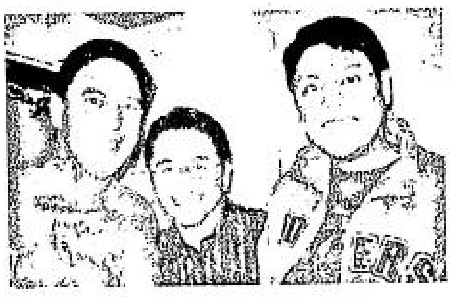
HIGH-SCHOOL batchmates Tonette Humphries, Ram Antonio, Cita Yabut, Rose Ferro and Algin del Rosario

Assumpta con Verde
Batch '80
CHARITABLE models. Ram Antonio, Raul Romulo, Cricket Tantoco and First Daughter Luli Arroyo

BEAUTIFUL guests at Loren and Tina's joint birthday party

BATCH '81 Carmela Puyat, Liaa Bautista, Karina Galang, Nana Sham, Janine Cuenca, Jojo Ongsiako and Connie Cuneta

ASSUMPTION girls Cory Quirino and First Daughter Luli Arroyo


LA SALLE giants. Sen. Ralph Recto, Ram Antonio and Sen. Kiko Pangilinan

MAN of the house Tony Leviste with Beng Dee and Perry Pe

FAMILY ties. Juan Mi and Queenie Laurel, Isabel Barandiaran and Ava Arcilla

PRETTY models. Carmela Isabela and Cricket Tantoco

AQUARIUS ladies. Tina Ocampo and Loren Legarda with Gina Lopez and Sea Princess

ART couple Kim and Lito Camacho

ASSUMPTION Batch '80 head Jeannie Javelosa and Ed Castrillo

LONGTIME friends Rikki Dee, Angeli Valenciano and Ricco Ocampo

Lipa cathedral to become a Pilgrim Church

THE PRESENT set of clergy at the Lipa Cathedral

THE HISTORY of Lipa City, which is preparing to mark the 400th year of the San Sebastian Cathedral on April 30, shows how blessed the town is.

First, the Blessed Virgin Mary chose the Carmelite Monastery in Lipa to appear to a postulant nun (Teresing Castillo) in 1948. Second, Bishop Alfredo Obviar, whose beatification is being studied by the Vatican, was a Bishop of the Lipa Archdiocese. Third, the community of farmers in Lake Bombon, now Tagbakin, Mataas na Kahoy found by the Spaniards in 1605 had become a God-fearing people strong in their faith. The Augustinians began a religious mission called San Sebastian among them.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

From that first mission grew nine parishes. They are the parishes of Immaculate Conception (Malvar), Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage (Balete), Immaculate Conception (Mataas na Kahoy), Sto. Niño (Pinagtongulan), San Vicente Ferrer (Banaybanay), San Antonio de Padua (Bolbok), Our Lady of Peace (Lodlod), San Isidro Labrador (San Isidro) and Sto. Niño (Marawoy). They take turns in concelebrating the Mass with the Lipa clergy community.

Novena Masses are being held on Saturdays until the fiesta on April 30.

The San Sebastian Parish Church, which is also the cathedral of the archdiocese of Lipa, will be declared by the Archdiocesan Chancery as a Pilgrim Church after a two-year period, 2003-2005. As such, plenary indulgence may be gained by pilgrims to the splendid church.

Activities have been scheduled every month: Jan. 10-20, congress of San Sebastian namesakes; Jan. 23-Feb. 6, Sto. Niño exhibit; April 1, opening of six- month photo/artifacts exhibit; April-Gawad San Sebastian awards; April 21-29, Novena Masses; April 30, Cardinal Vidal, Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and Archbishop Ramon Arguelles will officiate in concelebrated Mass.

Fr. Ernesto "Toti" Mandanas, parish priest of Lipa Cathedral, continues the work started by Msgr. Alfredo Madlangbayan who has moved to Nasugbu, Batangas. When Monsignor Madlangbayan was parish priest, he set two goals to leave a legacy of the Quadricentennial: to install a carillon at the cathedral and to convert the old choir loft into a museum/ archives and tourist spot.

Life-size portraits of two new saints, St. Padre Pio and St. Josemaria Escriva, now hang on side altars of the cathedral.

St. William fiesta

Laoag City will celebrate the feast day of St. William Feb. 10. Bishop Ernesto Salgado will officiate in the Concelebrated Mass at 10 a.m., together with Msgr. Jack Jose, parish priest, and several priests from the diocese.

It will also be the golden jubilee of Class '55 of St. William's High School to be held at the Palazzo de Laoag Hotel owned by Tessie and Nonong Ablan. Class '55 members include Don Alviar, Eddie Adiarte, Bobby Aquino, Perry Barit, Ruben Blanco, Orlando Cabel, Bubut Donator, Renato Guirao, Pedro Lo, Demetrio Flores, Antonio Julian, Aurelio Palanca, Renato Magno, Ronald Ranada, Johnny Rubio, Antonio Ranada, Roger Senen, Pedro Simon, Fulgencio Tamayo and Cesar Ventura.

INTERIOR of the Lipa Cathedral

Officers and members of the Kannawidan Foundation will be home for the fiesta and to visit Museo Iloko. The foundation subsidizes entrance fees of school children. Founded in 1993 by Francis Ablan, "Kannawidan" is composed of Ilocanos from Ilocos Norte who want to preserve their traditional values and rich cultural heritage.

Officers and trustees for 2005 are Justice Oswaldo D. Agcaoili (ret), president; Georgia Balmaceda Alviar, vice president; Minda Acacio Garcia, treasurer; Betty Factora Merritt, secretary; Lita Marcos Roque, auditor; and Amparo Javier Araullo, Mary Lou Carpio Claudio, Baby Villaluz Doble, Fidelis Foronda Labrador, Baby Valdez Lejano, Nora Castro Bautista, Mian Rosales Gancayco, Willie Nicolas and Linabelle Ramos Villarica. Lawyer Ernesto Albano is legal counsel.

The board of advisers consists of Francis Ablan (founding chair), Max Edralin, Rosie Mata Castro, Rose Marie Balmaceda Lazaro and retired Justice Wenceslao Agnir.

Weddings

Last Jan. 29, the daughter of Elizabeth Lazo Santos, Dr. Liza Santos, married Dr. Ronald Sadang at the St. Michael church in Fort Bonifacio. The son of Tessie Medina Abary, Christian Abary, took for his wife Dr. Rosanna Vichuaco at the Shrine of Jesus the Way the Truth and the Life in the afternoon of the same day. Christian and family flew all the way from Anaheim, California, for the wedding.

Lourdes fiesta

Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, DD, of the Archdiocese of Manila will say the Apparition Mass at 12 nn, Feb. 11 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Retiro Street, QC, to mark the feast day of the patroness of the sick. The Mass commemorates the apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes to St. Bernadette in Lourdes, France. The feast is also part of the celebration of the International Eucharistic and National Marian Year.

The procession at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 11 will be broadcast live on dzME. The closing Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Fr. Mario G. Dorado, OFM Cap., parish priest of the national shrine.

The Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Tagaytay will also hold fiesta Masses.

Yesterday, Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco said a healing Mass. On Feb. 2, Imelda Cojuangco and Doña Victoria Santiago vda. de Tengco, this year's *hermanas de honor*, opened the Marian Eucharistic exhibit mounted by Jesse Nell and Sonny Francisco.

100th anniversary

Franciscan Sisters, including those in Baybay, Leyte, marks the 100th death anniversary of founder Mother Marie Theresia Bonzel today with Masses.

Holy Face of Jesus

The Sisters of Holy Face of Jesus in Quiapo will celebrate the feast of the Holy Face Feb. 8.

Feb. 9 is Ash Wednesday. Remember to go to Mass and have ashes put on your forehead to remind you of your mortality.

EDUARDO Jose Coseteng

ROBERT Dean Barbers

JAMES Sy

GONZALO Duque

RODOLFO Salalima

Red and White Ball on Feb. 17

THE SAN Beda College Alumni Association (SBCAA) will hold the traditional Red and White Ball to mark its 81st founding anniversary on Feb. 17 at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City.

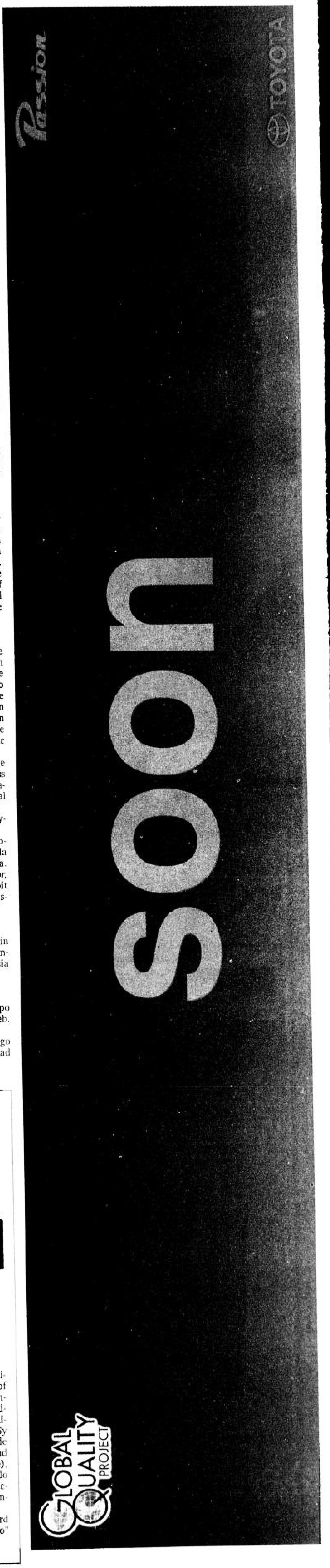
Highlight of the ball, started in the 1950s, is the traditional rigodon de honor featuring distinguished Bedans and friends participating.

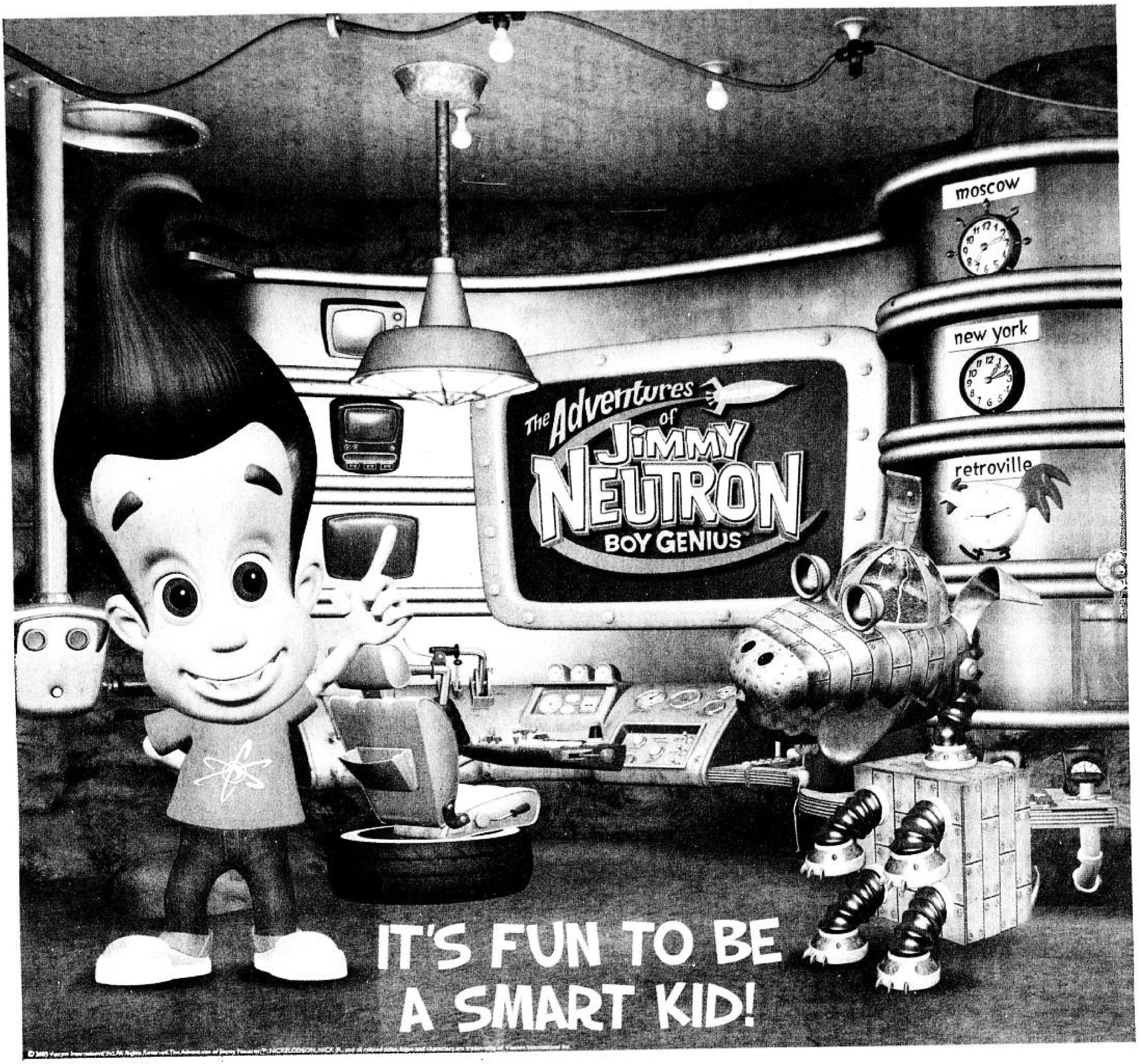
The ball, a prelude to the college's annual alumni homecoming, is a fund-raising for various causes espoused by the SBCAA. It also honors the achievement of outstanding alumni.

The Feb. 17 affair will gather the diamond, ruby, golden and silver jubilarians who traditionally host the year's homecoming, and will honor the first group elevated to the San Beda Hall of Fame in Profession: the late Fernando Poe Jr. (Philippine cinema), Andrew Gotianun (business and industry), the late Jesus Cabarrus (mining) and the late Don Antonio Roxas Chua (banking), and the third batch of sports heroes who will be elevated to the 2004 San Beda Sports Hall of Fame: Antonio Carillo (basketball), Cesar Jota (basketball), Angel de la Paz (basketball), Jesus Marzan (basketball), Ramon Melendez (football), Eduardo Pacheco (basketball), Manuel Zervoulakos (basketball).

Brothers Robert Dean Barbers, general manager of the Philippine Tourism Authority, and Robert Lyndon Barbers, governor of Surigao del Norte, lead the Most Distinguished Bedan awardees. Other outstanding Bedans are: Rodolfo Salalima (law), Ricardo Cuna (entrepreneurship), James Sy (sports service), Leonardo Monteverde (business), Henry Lee Chan (business and finance), Edilberto Concepcion (medicine), Eduardo Coseteng (car racing), Gonzalo Duque (education), Ramon Posadas (electric cooperative) and Mayor Genaro Mendoza (public service).

The 2005 Ramon V. Mitra Bedan Award for legislation will be given to Jose "Kako" Lacson.

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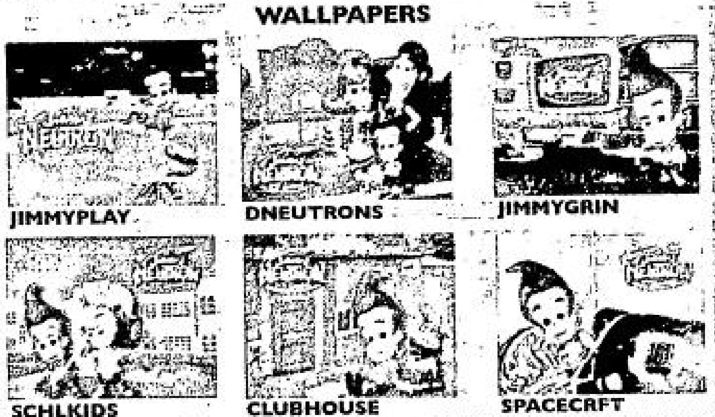
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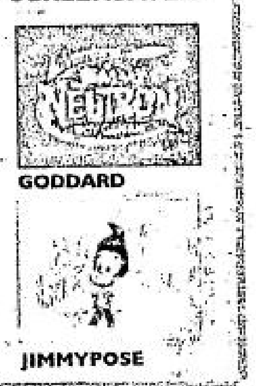
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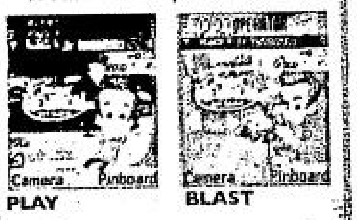
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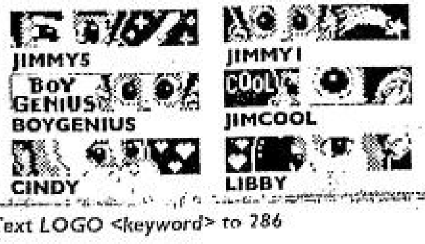
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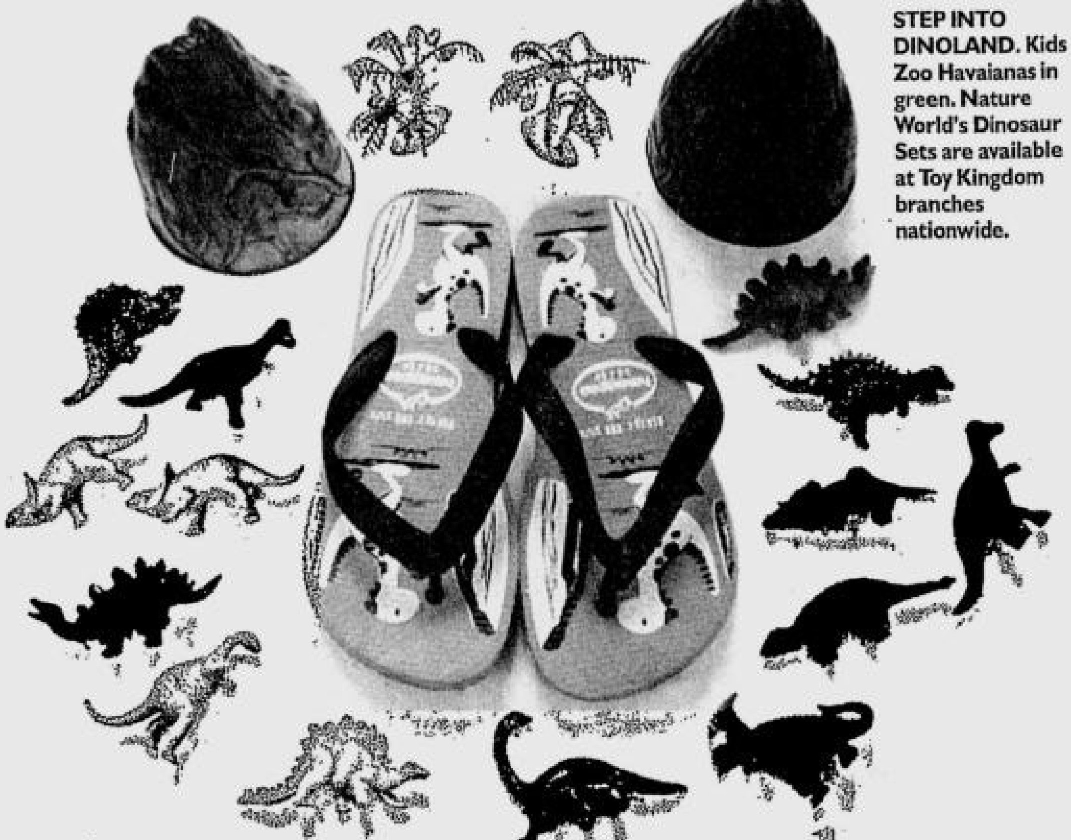
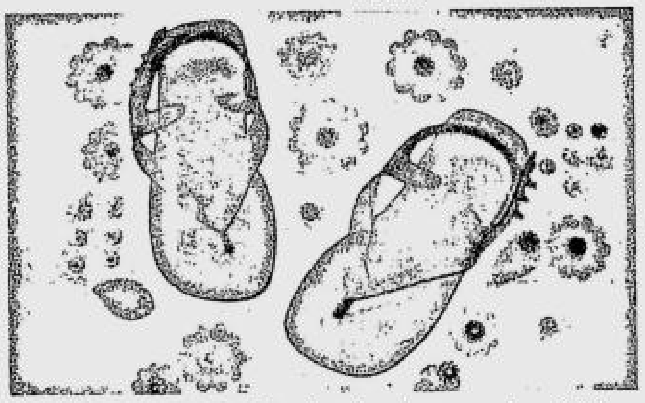
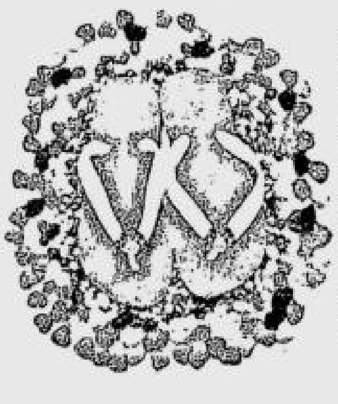


STEP INTO DINOLAND. Kids Zoo Havaianas in green. Nature World's Dinosaur Sets are available at Toy Kingdom branches nationwide.

Are you ready to flip flop?



ORANGE-ADE. Kids Trekking Havaianas in orange. Lego Clikits are available at Gift Gate branches nationwide.



SWEET FEET. Kids Pet Havaianas in red. Mini M&Ms, Jelly Beans, Gummi Fruit Salad and Heartbreakers are available at Candy Corner branches nationwide.

Text, photos and styling by Pam Pastor

IT'S a flip flop invasion.

There's no denying it. Havaianas, the Brazilian brand made famous by the Oscar goodie bags, Jennifer Aniston and Giselle Bundchen, has flip-flopped its way to the shoe racks of countless Filipinos.

Stocks run out all the time and finding out when the new collections come in is privileged information. Flip flops have become more than just a beach staple—people wear them everywhere and with everything.

Now, the adorable little people can join in on the fun. Because there's a Havaianas collection for them, too.

Thanks to the Brazilian company's secret recipe for buttery soft rubber, kids from two to seven years old can wear these sturdy flip flops for play dates, on lazy days at the mall and for running around after school.

The colorful collection features Havaianas in classic designs and other pairs spruced up with images of butterflies, dinosaurs, fish and other cute animals.

Now if only my little brother didn't have such huge feet.

Havaianas for little people are available at Blush Hour in Rockwell Power Plant Mall and Kidsports in Shangri-La Mall. Havaianas for big people are available at Rustan's U in Makati, Aura Athletica in Power Plant Mall and Nail Spa on Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village Makati, and Shangri-La Mall.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

ALPHABET SOUP. Kids Acqua Havaianas in blue. Magnetic Alphabet Case, available at Toy Kingdom.

HARMONY Bear and Love-A-Lot Bear care about this pair. Kids Zoo Havaianas in pink. Care Bear merchandise are available at Toy Kingdom.

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How to Goldmine Your Landline:

1. Promo is open to all current and new residential PLDT postpaid and Telesulit subscribers nationwide.
2. To join, subscriber must register and enrol at any PLDT Business Office to become an official Goldmine Agent.
3. For every approved and installed telephone subscription that is credited to his account, the Goldmine Agent receives the following:

GOLDMINE AGENT	For Every Post-paid Sub Approved and Installed	For Every Pre-paid Sub Approved and Installed
Post-paid Subscriber	Free P300 worth of NDD (PLDT-PLDT) and/or Vibe Internet Pay per Surf	Free P150 worth of NDD (PLDT-PLDT) and/or Vibe Internet Pay per Surf
Telesulit Subscriber	Free P300 worth of Load on existing Telesulit line	Free P150 worth of Load on existing Telesulit line

Note: *Credits/loads will automatically be credited to the account of the Goldmine Agent and will expire after one (1) month. Unused credits/loads will not be carried over to the succeeding month.*

4. To qualify for the cash prizes at the end of the promo period, Goldmine Agents should have at least fifty (50) approved and installed subscriptions. All qualified Goldmine Agents will be ranked according to the most number of approved applications and awarded the following:

Category	Cash Prize (in PhP)
Platinum Category: Top 5	Php 300,000
Diamond Category: Top 6-15	Php 150,000
Gold Category: Top 16 – 25	Php 75,000
Ruby Category: Top 26 – 35	Php 50,000
Silver Category: Top 36 – 45	Php 20,000
Bronze Category: Top 46 – 55	Php 10,000
Pearl Category: Top 56 – 65	Php 5,000

5. Promo period is from January 10, 2005 to May 10, 2005. Deadline for submission of referrals with complete required documents is on May 10, 2005, 5:00pm.
6. Successful new applications credited to the account of the Goldmine Agent are non-transferable.
7. The Goldmine Agent is not an employee of PLDT. He is not authorized to collect money or any other monetary form from the telephone applicants.
8. All existing promos at the time of the application shall apply to the applicant. PLDT will confirm availability of every line application by mailing an official notice to the subscriber. PLDT will install the line within five (5) days from receipt of payment. All subscriptions are covered by an 18-month contract or lock-in period. Pre-termination rates of P2,500 apply.
9. Standard policies of PLDT on Credit and Collection shall apply. PLDT reserves the right to disqualify any Goldmine Agent from the Program if any violation is commited on existing policies on subscription, credit and collection and/or commit acts of fraud.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3165, Series of 2004.

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PLDT

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sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

FEBRUARY 6, 2005

1

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph

BY ROBERT WONG

RAGNAROK

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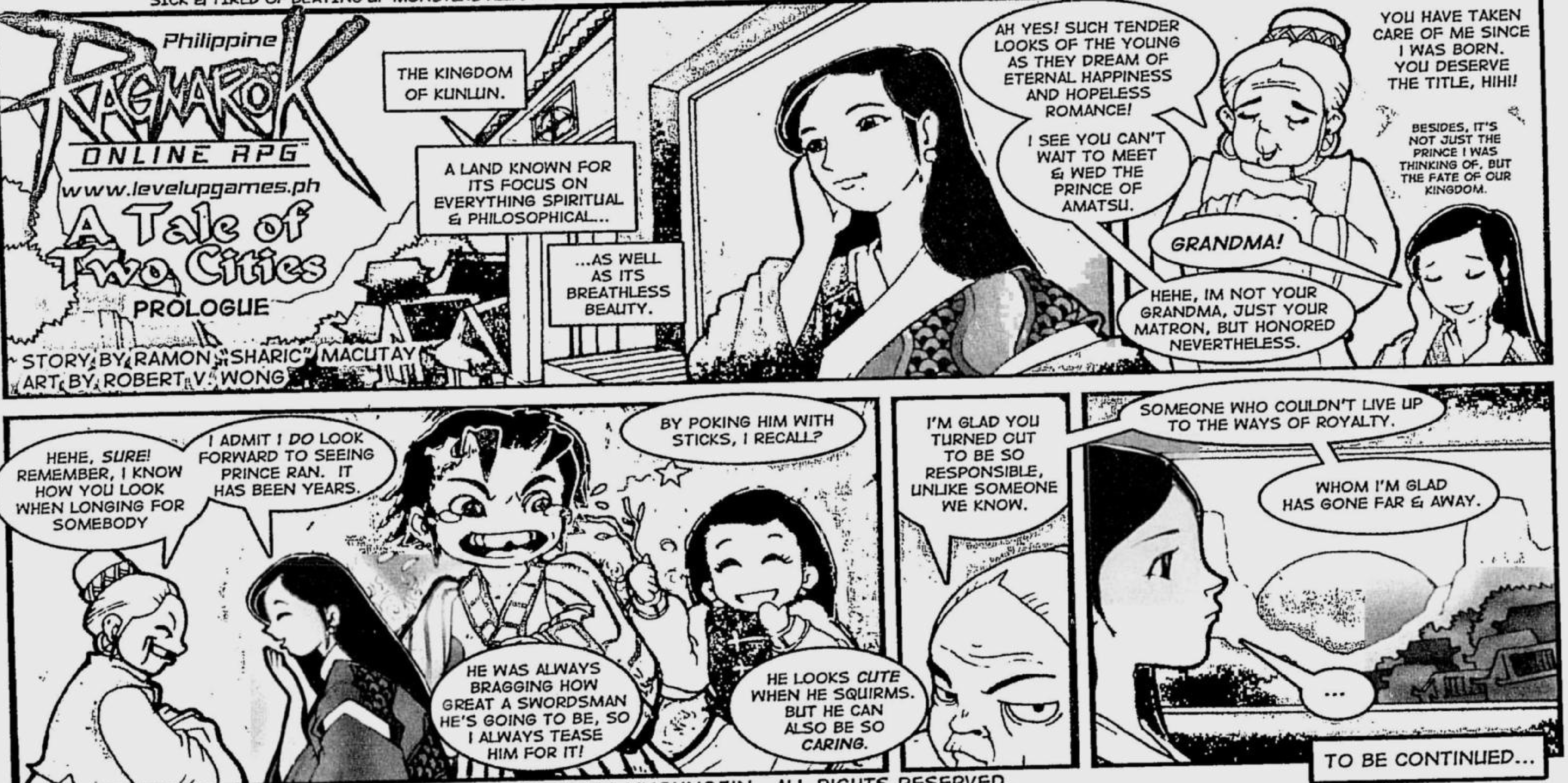
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
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STORY BY RAMON "SHARIC" MACUTAY
ART BY ROBERT V. WONG
THE KINGDOM OF KUNLUN.
A LAND KNOWN FOR ITS FOCUS ON EVERYTHING SPIRITUAL & PHILOSOPHICAL...
...AS WELL AS ITS BREATHLESS BEAUTY.
AH YES! SUCH TENDER LOOKS OF THE YOUNG AS THEY DREAM OF ETERNAL HAPPINESS AND HOPELESS ROMANCE!
I SEE YOU CAN'T WAIT TO MEET & WED THE PRINCE OF AMATSU.
YOU HAVE TAKEN CARE OF ME SINCE I WAS BORN. YOU DESERVE THE TITLE, HIHI!
GRANDMA!
HEHE, IM NOT YOUR GRANDMA, JUST YOUR MATRON, BUT HONORED NEVERTHELESS.
BESIDES, IT'S NOT JUST THE PRINCE I WAS THINKING OF, BUT THE FATE OF OUR KINGDOM.
HEHE, SURE! REMEMBER, I KNOW HOW YOU LOOK WHEN LONGING FOR SOMEBODY
I ADMIT I DO LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING PRINCE RAN. IT HAS BEEN YEARS.
BY POKING HIM WITH STICKS, I RECALL?
HE WAS ALWAYS BRAGGING HOW GREAT A SWORDSMAN HE'S GOING TO BE, SO I ALWAYS TEASE HIM FOR IT!
HE LOOKS CUTE WHEN HE SQUIRMS. BUT HE CAN ALSO BE SO CARING.
I'M GLAD YOU TURNED OUT TO BE SO RESPONSIBLE, UNLIKE SOMEONE WE KNOW.
SOMEONE WHO COULDN'T LIVE UP TO THE WAYS OF ROYALTY.
WHOM I'M GLAD HAS GONE FAR & AWAY.
...
TO BE CONTINUED...

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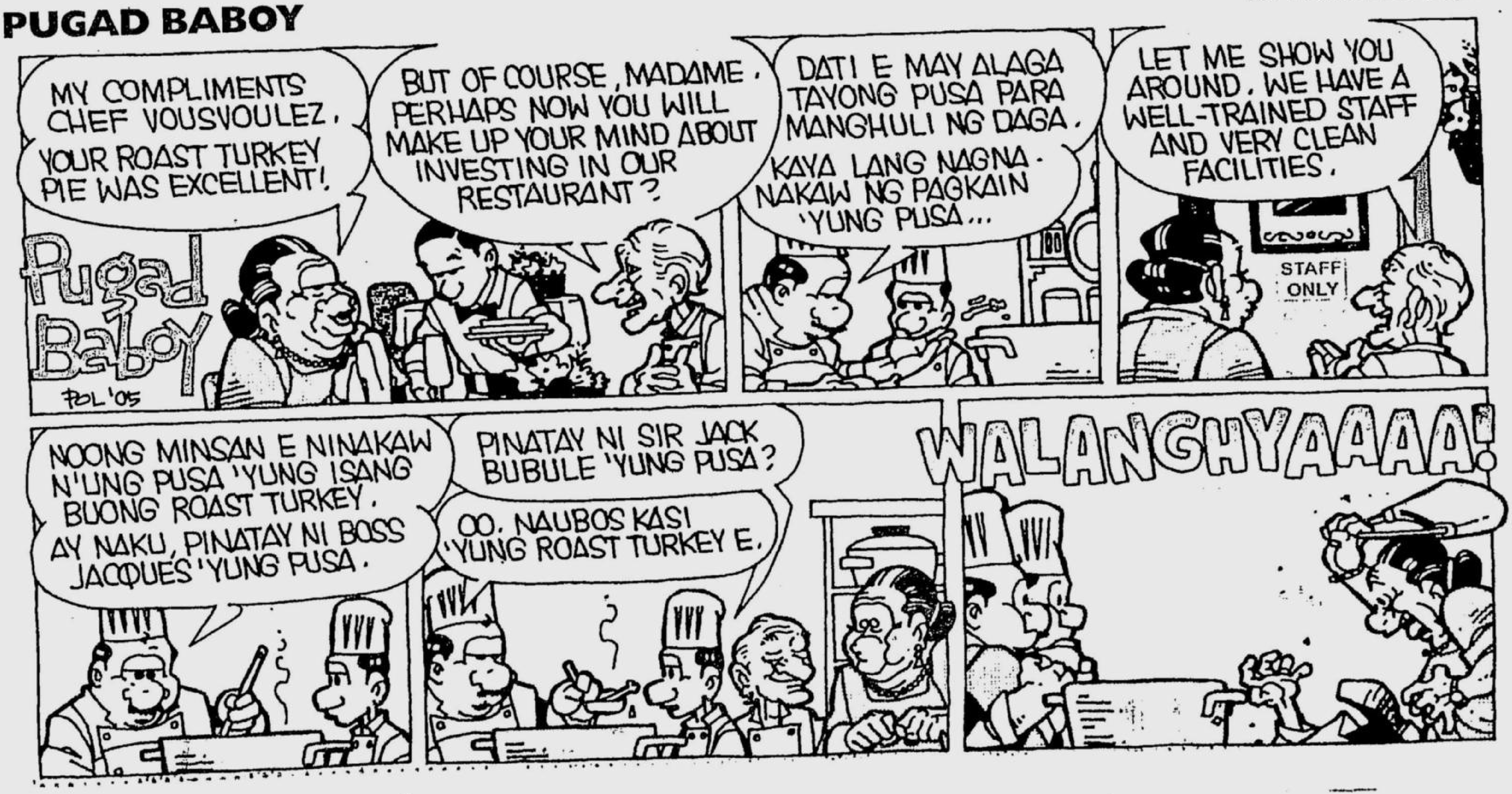
BY POL MEDINA JR.

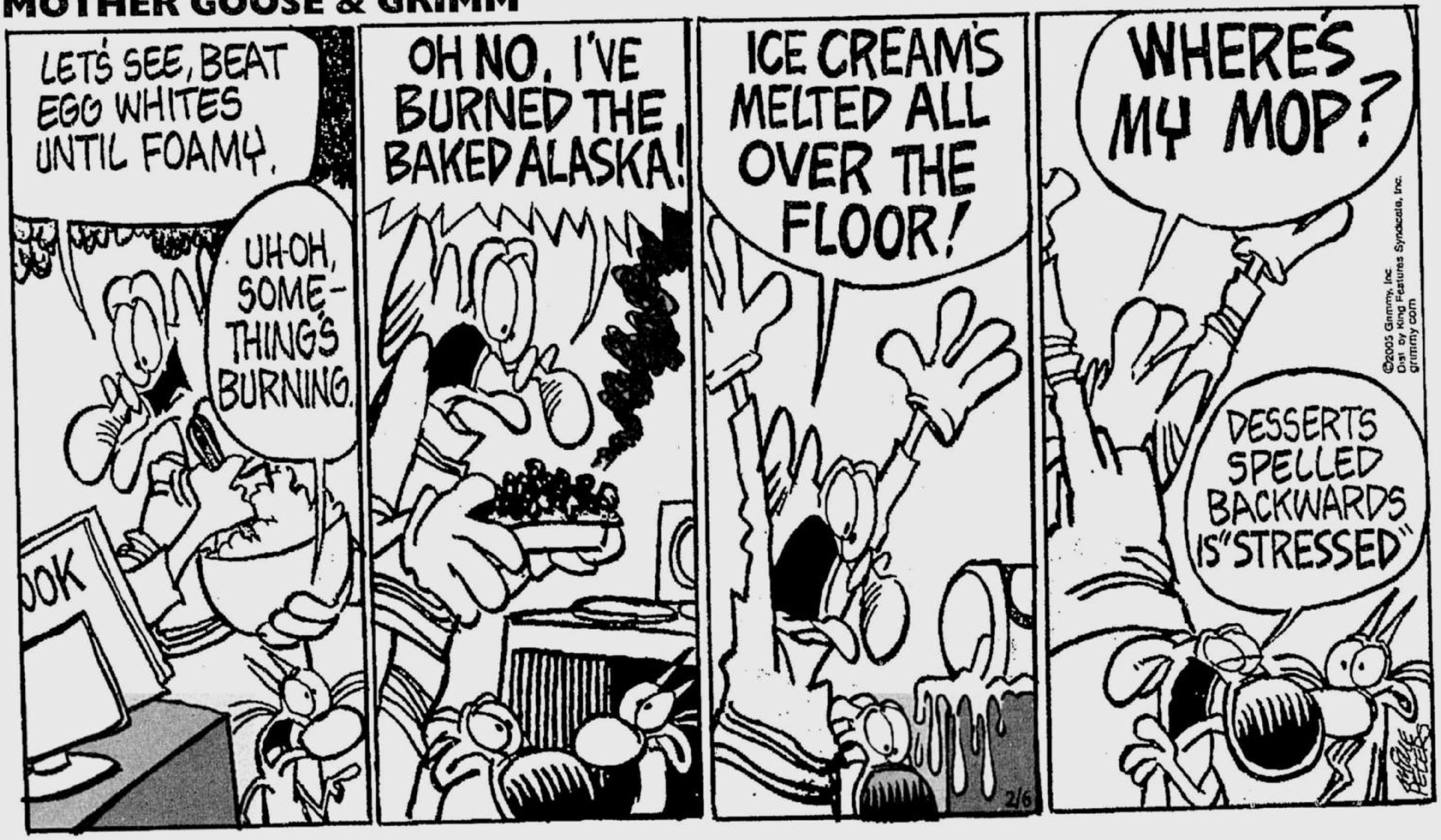
PUGAD BABOY


MY COMPLIMENTS CHEF VOUSVOULEZ. YOUR ROAST TURKEY PIE WAS EXCELLENT!
BUT OF COURSE, MADAME. PERHAPS NOW YOU WILL MAKE UP YOUR MIND ABOUT INVESTING IN OUR RESTAURANT?
Pugad Baboy
POL '05
DATI E MAY ALAGA TAYONG PUSA PARA MANGHULI NG DAGA. KAYA LANG NAGNANAKAW NG PAGKAIN 'YUNG PUSA...
LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND. WE HAVE A WELL-TRAINED STAFF AND VERY CLEAN FACILITIES.
STAFF ONLY
NOONG MINSAN E NINAKAW N'UNG PUSA 'YUNG ISANG BUONG ROAST TURKEY. AY NAKU, PINATAY NI BOSS JACQUES 'YUNG PUSA.
PINATAY NI SIR JACK BUBULE 'YUNG PUSA?
OO. NAUBOS KASI 'YUNG ROAST TURKEY E.
WALANGHYAAAA!

Congratulations to our Grand Draw winners: 1) Gabriel O. Tejerero, Jr., Valenzuela City: 1st Prize winner of a Personal Computer! 2) Rene J. Novisteros, North Cotabato: 2nd Prize winner of a Cellphone Kit!
3) Mary Joan C. Preclaro, Antipolo City: 3rd prize winner of gift items from Fully Booked, Ragnarok, and Filbars
To claim your prizes, please call (02)897-8808 loc. 352. Look for Mr. Dennis Leung

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


LET'S SEE, BEAT EGG WHITES UNTIL FOAMY.
UH-OH, SOMETHING'S BURNING.
OOK
OH NO. I'VE BURNED THE BAKED ALASKA!
ICE CREAM'S MELTED ALL OVER THE FLOOR!
2/6
WHERE'S MY MOP?
DESSERTS SPELLED BACKWARDS IS "STRESSED"
MIKE PETERS

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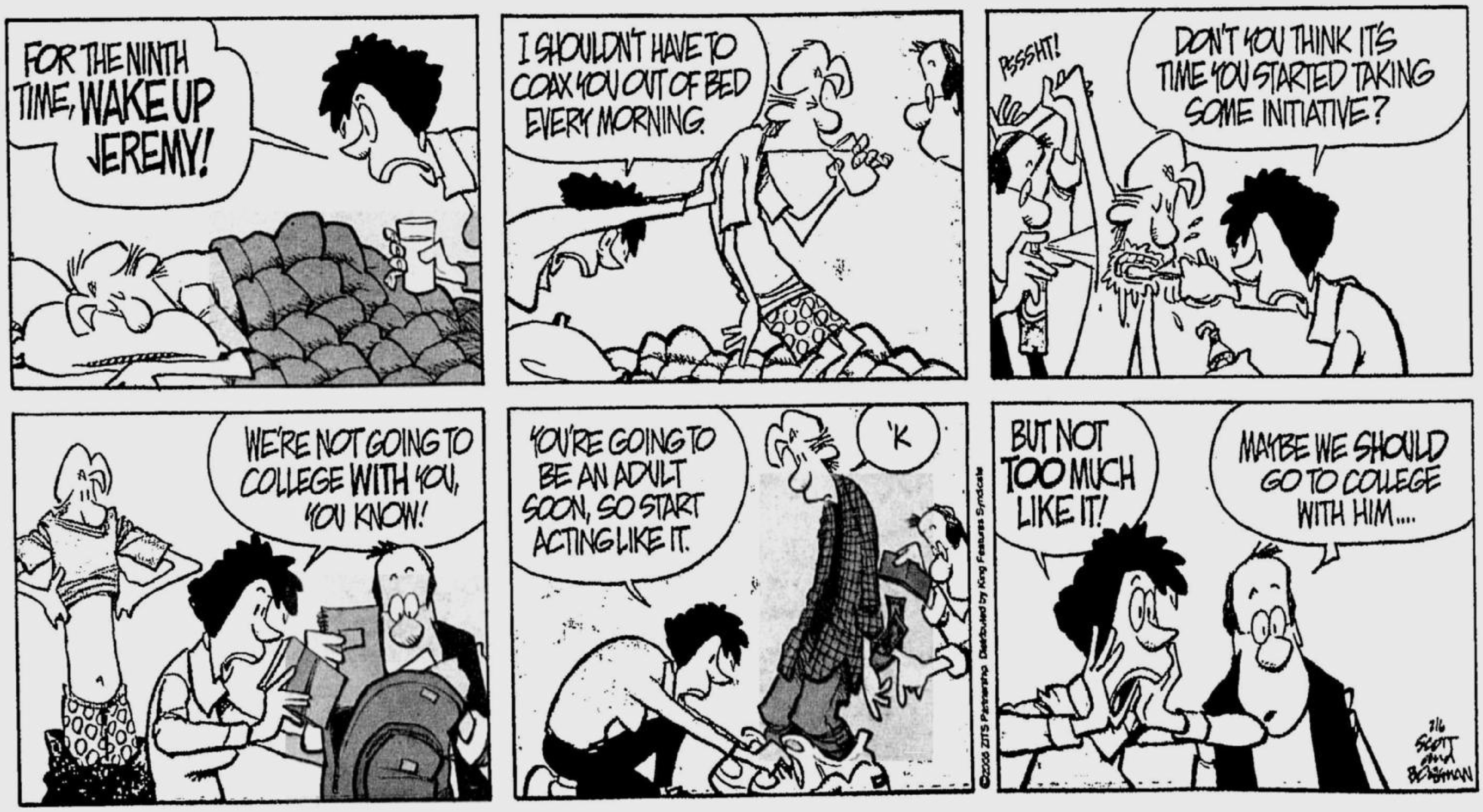
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


FOR THE NINTH TIME, WAKE UP JEREMY!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO COAX YOU OUT OF BED EVERY MORNING.
PSSSHT!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU STARTED TAKING SOME INITIATIVE?
WE'RE NOT GOING TO COLLEGE WITH YOU, YOU KNOW!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE AN ADULT SOON, SO START ACTING LIKE IT.
'K
BUT NOT TOO MUCH LIKE IT!
MAYBE WE SHOULD GO TO COLLEGE WITH HIM....
2/6 SCOTT and BORGMAN

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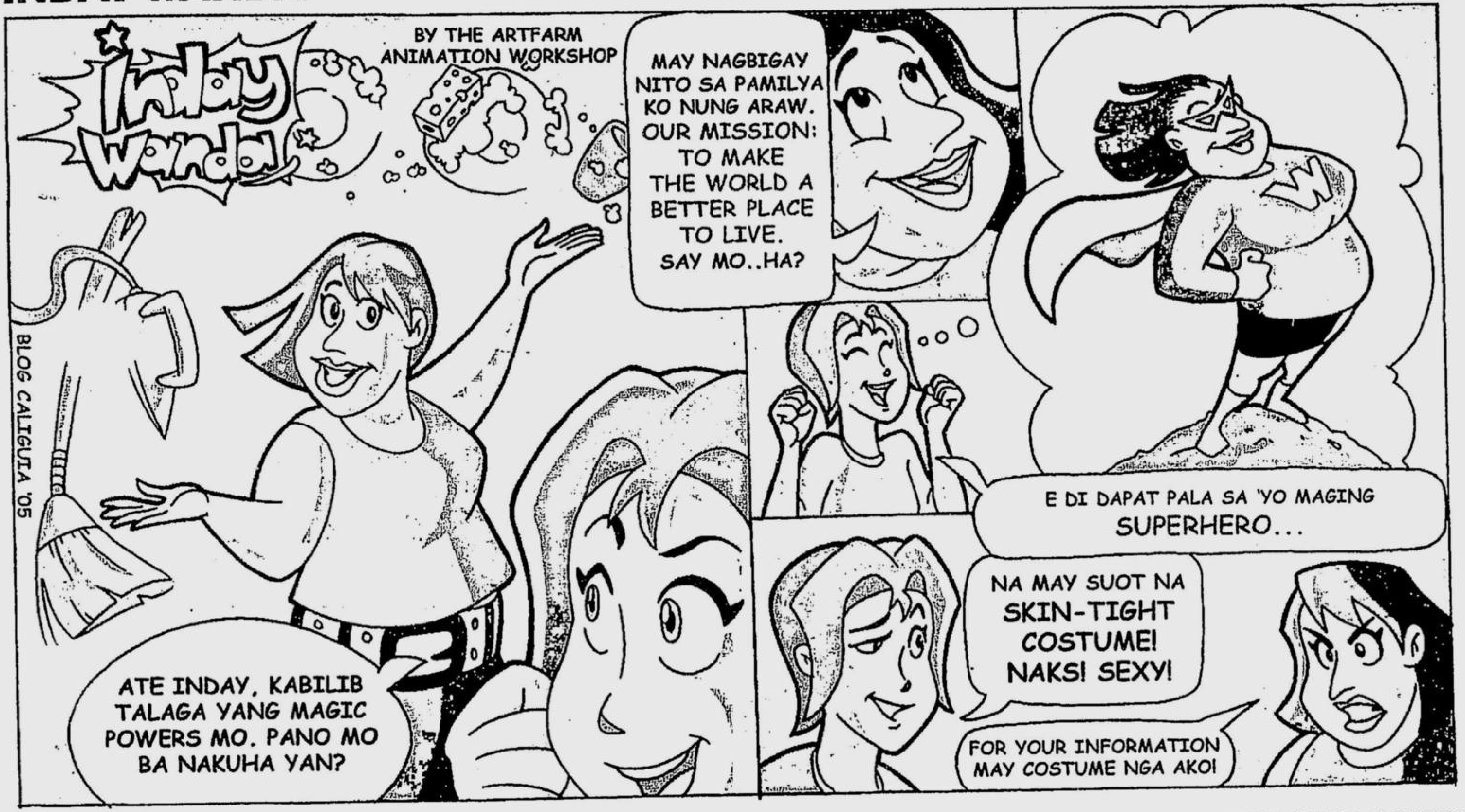
INDAY WANDA

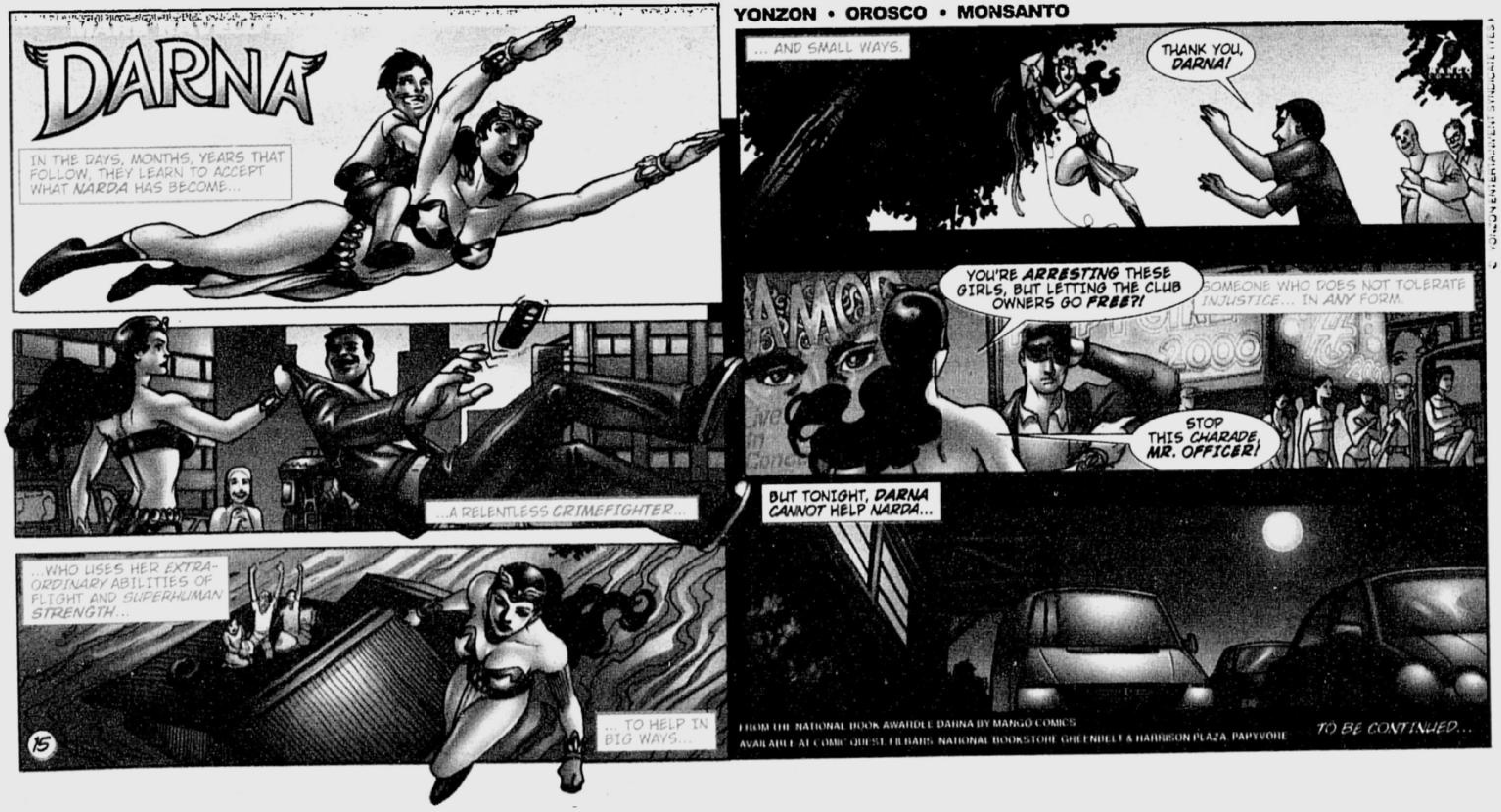
BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday Wanda
BY THE ARTFARM ANIMATION WORKSHOP
ATE INDAY, KABILIB TALAGA YANG MAGIC POWERS MO. PANO MO BA NAKUHA YAN?
MAY NAGBIGAY NITO SA PAMILYA KO NUNG ARAW. OUR MISSION: TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE. SAY MO..HA?
BLOG CALIGUIA '05
E DI DAPAT PALA SA 'YO MAGING SUPERHERO...
NA MAY SUOT NA SKIN-TIGHT COSTUME! NAKS! SEXY!
FOR YOUR INFORMATION MAY COSTUME NGA AKO!

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS

YONZON • OROSCO • MONSANTO

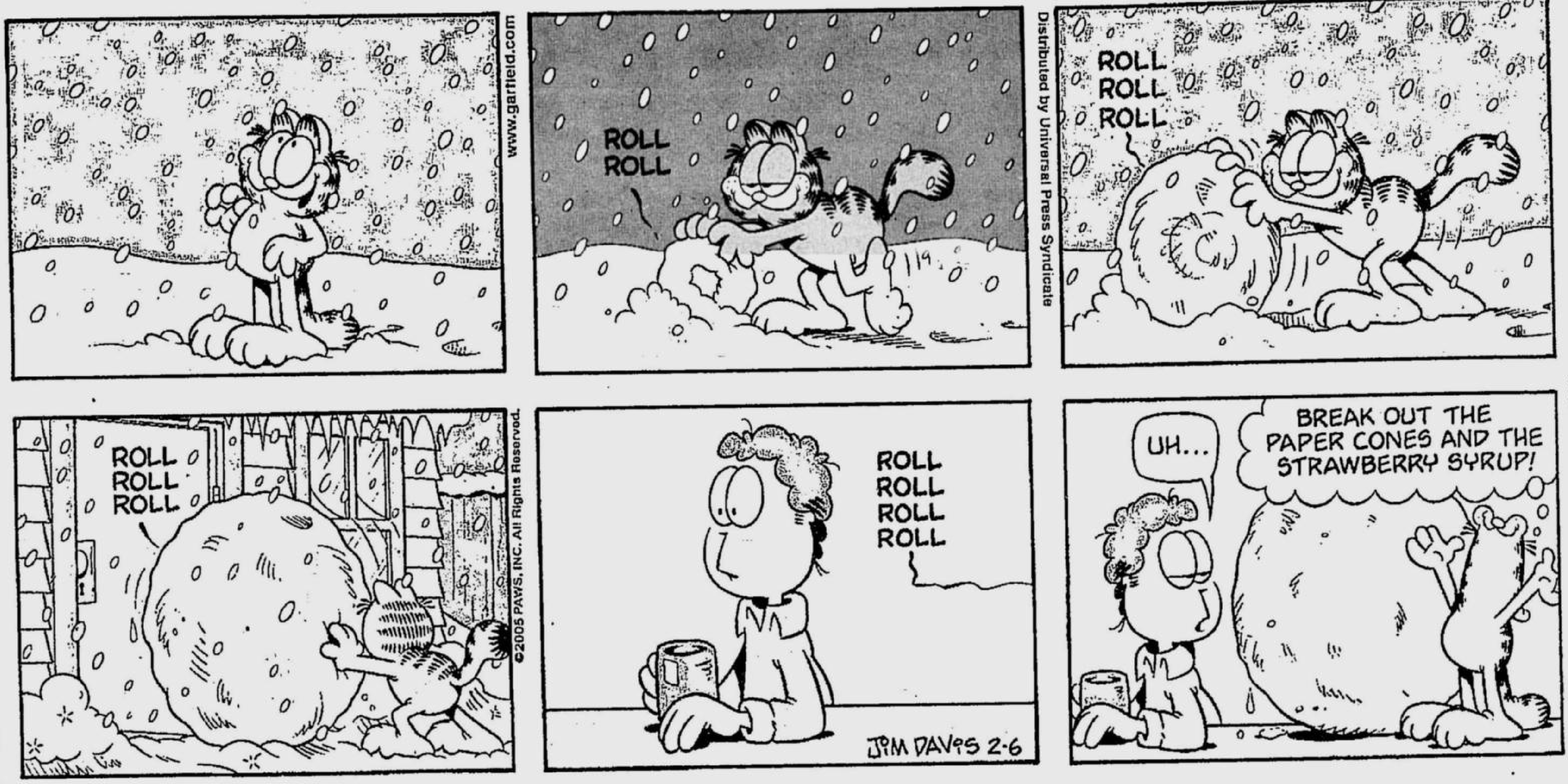

DARNA
IN THE DAYS, MONTHS, YEARS THAT FOLLOW, THEY LEARN TO ACCEPT WHAT NARDA HAS BECOME...
...A RELENTLESS CRIMEFIGHTER...
...WHO USES HER EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES OF FLIGHT AND SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH...
... TO HELP IN BIG WAYS...
15
... AND SMALL WAYS.
THANK YOU, DARNA!
YOU'RE ARRESTING THESE GIRLS, BUT LETTING THE CLUB OWNERS GO FREE?!
SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT TOLERATE INJUSTICE... IN ANY FORM.
STOP THIS CHARADE, MR. OFFICER!
BUT TONIGHT, DARNA CANNOT HELP NARDA...
TO BE CONTINUED...

FROM THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARDEE DARNA BY MANGO COMICS
AVAILABLE AT COMIC QUEST, FILBARS, NATIONAL BOOKSTORE GREENBELT & HARRISON PLAZA, PAPYVORE

A. FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
UH...
BREAK OUT THE PAPER CONES AND THE STRAWBERRY SYRUP!
JIM DAVIS 2-6

www.garfield.com

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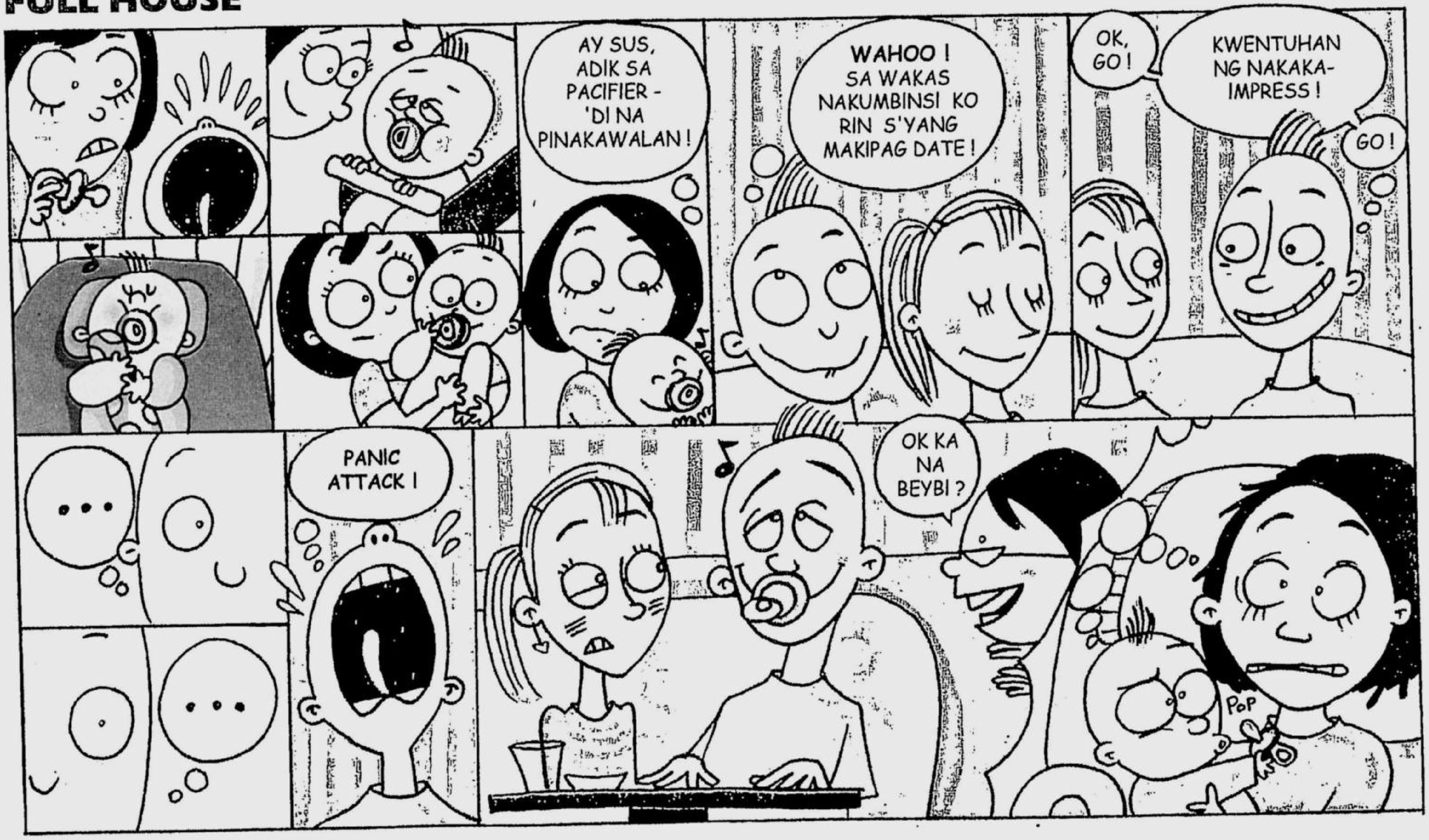
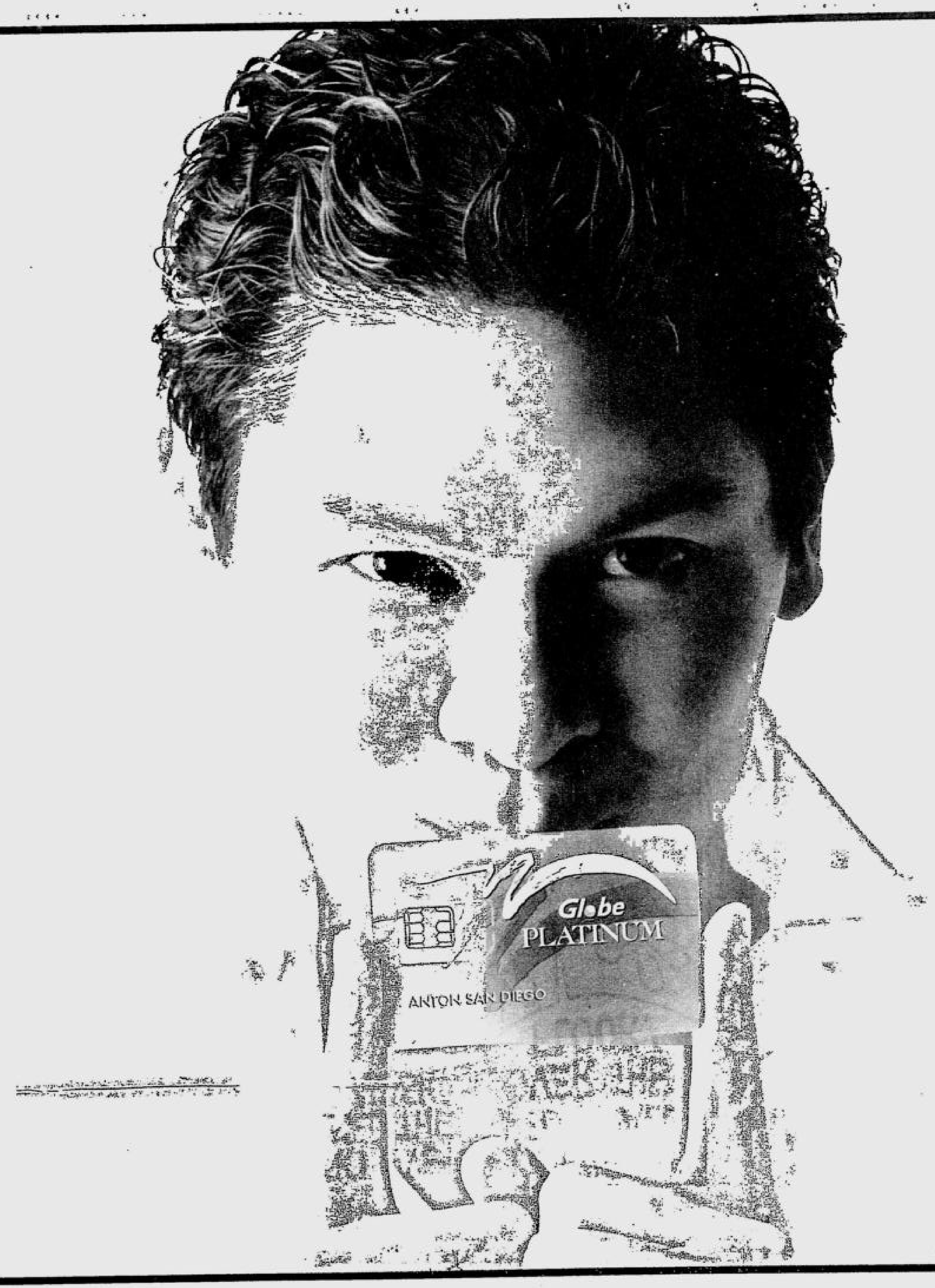
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


AY SUS, ADIK SA PACIFIER - 'DI NA PINAKAWALAN!
WAHOO! SA WAKAS NAKUMBINSI KO RIN S'YANG MAKIPAG DATE!
OK, GO!
KWENTUHAN NG NAKAKA-IMPRESS!
GO!
...
...
PANIC ATTACK!
OK KA NA BEYBI?
POP

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

ANTON SAN DIEGO Philippine Tatler Editor
Globe Platinum member since 2004



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Win a trip for 2 to Hong Kong

READERS of the PDI Lifestyle section have a chance to win a trip for two to Hong Kong courtesy of the Hong Kong Tourism Board. Simply answer, in not more than five sentences, the question "Why is Hong Kong the ideal place to celebrate the Chinese New Year?" E-mail your entry, along with your name, date of birth, address and phone number, to hkchinesenewyear@perceptions-inc.com. Entries e-mailed to any INQUIRER e-mail address will NOT be honored.

Deadline is 11:59 p.m. of Feb. 12, 2005. Sorry, no hand-delivered or faxed entries, please.

Five entries will be picked to each win a special gift item from HKTB. The best entry wins the grand prize trip for two to Hong Kong. Entries will be judged according to creativity (30 percent), originality (30 percent) and content (40 percent).

FLOWER market

Frolic under the moon

KUNG hei fat choy—"Wishing you success and prosperity!" It is unlikely any visitor to Hong Kong during the Lunar New Year could leave without hearing this traditional greeting.

Often the greeting is accompanied by the giving of *lai see*, red paper envelopes gold-stamped with good-luck mottos and containing crisp, new paper money. Originally, in the days when coins had holes in the middle, the gift comprised lengths of coins held together with red ribbon. Nowadays, to accommodate demand, the Hong Kong banks put their new notes into circulation.

If money seems a rather prosaic symbol for a time of hope and celebration, flowers also play a major role in the Lunar New Year tradition. No home, hotel, office or bank is without its spray of peach blossoms, carefully tended on flower farms in the New Territories to be at their blooming best for the holiday season.

Narcissi, peonies and pussywillow are also traded under glowing lamplight at the annual New Year flower market in Victoria Park. All symbolize good luck and prosperity, as does the miniature orange, or kumquat, plant with its gold-colored fruit and a name that sounds like the Chinese word for gold.

Visitors do not have to look hard (or at all!) to find a lion dance, a colorful, noisy and athletic display aimed at frightening away evil spirits and bringing good luck. Most hotels have a lion troupe performing in the lobby while, in the traditional villages, the troupe moves from house to house in rhythmic ceremony.

Fireworks

Firecrackers have long been associated with the Lunar New Year celebrations and, although these are now banned in Hong Kong for safety reasons, the tradition is carried on with a magnificent official pyrotechnic extravaganza over Victoria Harbour on the second day of the Lunar New Year.

The first three days of Lunar New Year, the most important Chinese festival of the year, are public holidays in Hong Kong where tradition dictates how each day is spent.

The Lunar New Year is a time for making a fresh start to welcome the spring. The slate is wiped clean as debts

FROLIC [illegible]

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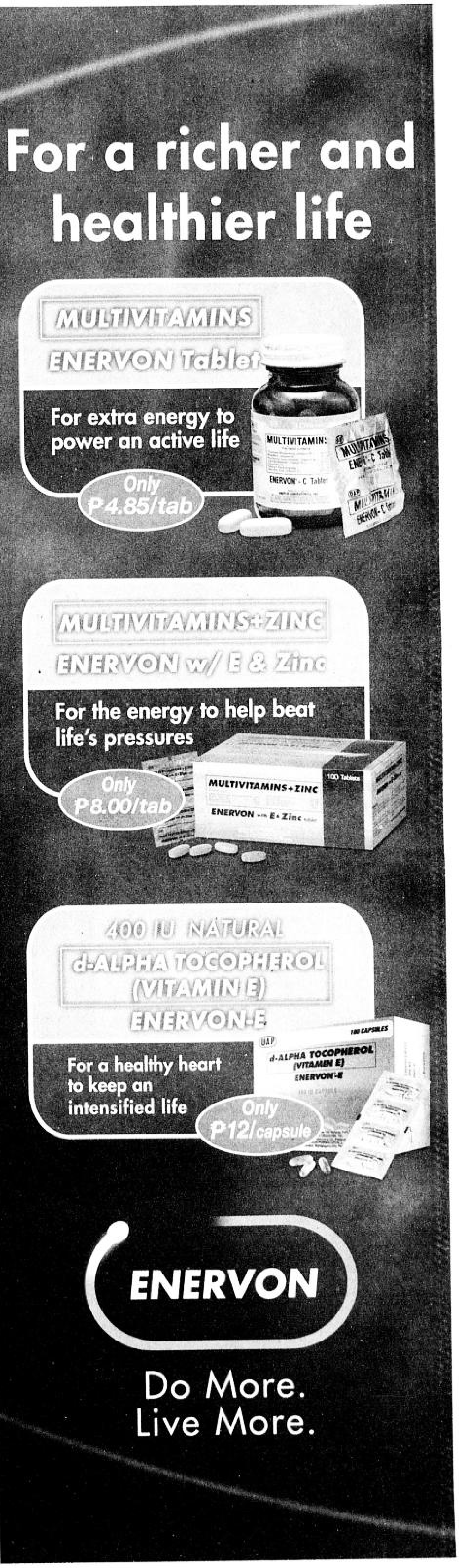
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ENERVON
Do More. Live More.

Frolic under the moon

Hong Kong is where the Lunar New Year is celebrated with much panache

From page E1

are paid, while stores do a tremendous trade in sweets, nuts, chocolate and that favorite Hong Kong tipple, cognac. As with the western New Year, if you go visiting at this time, you do not go empty-handed.

Traditionally, families dine together on Lunar New Year's Eve. Each dish in this evening's sumptuous banquet symbolizes some desire for the new year, such as wealth, fertility or good luck. Fish figures prominently on the menu, as the Chinese word for fish, *yu*, sounds like the word for abundance.

The whole family, including its youngest members, will stay up past midnight to welcome the New Year together. It is believed that children who stay up to greet the New Year will be blessed with a long life. In some families, the children are given *lai see* by their elders on this night; in others, they must wait for the morning.

Throughout the rituals, ancestors are remembered and continue to play a leading role in the proceedings. Family altars are adorned with ancestor tablets and scrolls going back five generations. The ancestors are offered food and drink every day until the 16th day of the Lunar New Year, when they are believed to leave the house once more. Accompanying the ancestors on their return from the spirit world are the household gods. They, too, must share the feast.

Traditions

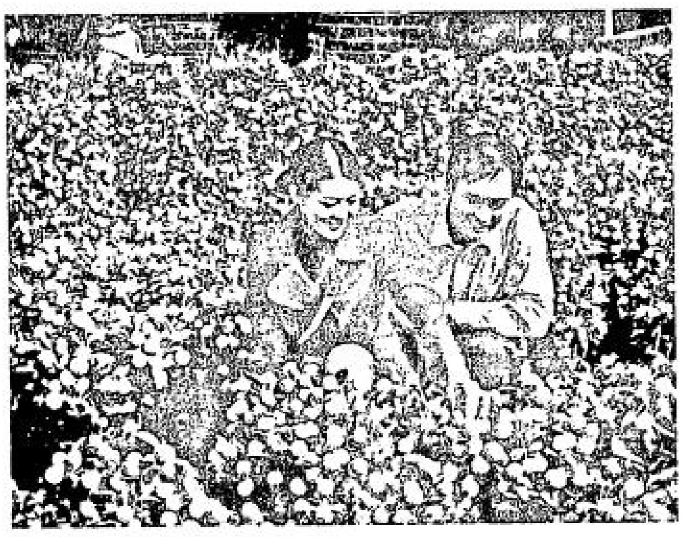
Each day of the season carries its own traditions. On the first day of the holiday, the family stays home together, although many families may go and watch the Chinese New Year Parade. On the second day, families visit friends and more distant relatives. As in the western "first foot" tradition, in which the first visitor to the house brings luck or otherwise, great significance is attached to the first person seen after leaving home. Women and priests are deemed to be unlucky!

Each of the first 10 days of the Lunar New Year is dedicated to someone or something. The first day is for chickens, the second for dogs, the third for pigs, the fourth for goats, the fifth for cattle, and the sixth for horses. No animal can be slaughtered on its day. The seventh day is dedicated to man and is known as "Everybody's Birthday" (on this day, criminals were traditionally reprieved and no executions could take place). The eighth day is dedicated to rice and other grains; the ninth is Heaven's Day; and the tenth is Earth's Day.

The weather on the seventh day is thought to portend events of the year ahead, although interpretations of the portents appear to differ from rural to urban areas. Whereas city folk believed that a fine clear day was an indication of a peaceful year ahead, country dwellers saw it as an omen of famine.

The Lunar New Year celebrations draw to a close on the 15th day of the New Year with the Yuen Siu, or Spring Lantern, Festival. A Taoist tradition, Yuen Siu is believed to be the day when the Lord of Heaven visits Earth to check up on humans. In his honor, exhibitions of brightly colored lanterns are held in prominent public places and at Taoist temples.

With Yuen Siu, the New Year celebrations end and Hong Kong embarks on another busy round of traditional celebrations, sporting events, art shows, festivals, business and excitement!



HK Chinese New Year flower markets will be open tomorrow until midnight and Feb. 8 until the wee hours at the Victoria Park in Causeway Bay and the Fa Hui Park in Mong Kok.

HK restaurants offer families versions of the Big Bowl Feast (Poonchoi).

TravelBriefs

Discounted domestic rates

CEBU Pacific and PAL are giving discounted rates on domestiv flights. You can now fly to Cebu, Bacolod, and even Kalibo for as low as P799 (Cebu Pacific) or P888 (PAL) one way. Fares are valid until March 15.

Holy Week vacations may be booked now. For twin-sharing, the rates are as follows: Willy's Beach Resort, P 7,900; Boracay Peninsula, P 6,100; Escondido, P6,100; Hotel Seraph, P8,500; Royal Park P7,000; Sun Village, 7,200.

The package includes 3 days / 2 nights accommodation based on twin-share, daily breakfast, round trip transfers and welcome drinks.

All rates include round trip airfare, tours, hotel accommodation in 4 star, tour guide and most meals.

Top vacations at tour expo

TRAVEL Tour Expo features Top Vacations, located at A-16, Megatrade Hall, Megamall, today. Buy packages to Macau, Canada, Kenya, South Africa, India, South America, and Central America, as well as local packages such as Donsol and Bohol at discounted rates.

Whitewater rafting adventure

THE CHICO River Quest offers open schedules for trips throughout the year. All trips include river shuttles, food and accommodations. Kalinga guides, fabulous scenery, exhilarating rapids, and a glimpse of Kalinga culture. Whitewater rafting is ideal from June through early January, with other dates possible dependent on water level.

Tabuk-Chico River Day Run or Pasil-Chico River Confluence to Tabuk, 2 days/1 night costs P3,000/person.

The Tinglayan to Pasil Marathon Run, 3 days/2 nights costs P6,000/person.

Experience Sabah

HAVE a grand time in Sabah, Kota Kinabalu and Sutera Harbour Resort & Spa for only $420/ person.

Inclusions are round-trip airfare, 3 nights hotel accommodation, daily buffet breakfast, 1 dim sum lunch at resort, 1 buffet dinner at resort, guiding services, tips and either 18 hole golf with buggy (twin share) or Mandara Spa-Balinese traditional massage.

Fly now, pay later

"FLY-NOW-PAY-LATER" or travel financing is a type of credit that provides funds for an airline ticket or package tour, and may also include pocket money. Put up by PMC Finance and Investment Corporation (PMC) in 1998, it is a specialized form of financing geared towards the needs of a traveler or as a gift to someone special.

"Fly Now, Pay Later" may also be availed of for business purposes—attending a conference or meeting business associates—or for migrating to another country, or by overseas workers or seamen. Trips to local tourist spots like Boracay, Palawan, Guimaras Island, Cebu, Bohol, Ilocos, Batanes and other tourist destinations may also be financed through this scheme.

Over a hundred travel agencies are accredited with PMC. Call PMC at 8873661 or 8441077..

THE PHILIPPINE Travel Agencies Association (PTAA), the largest travel organization in the country, inducted recently its new set of officers and trustees at the Grand Ballroom InterContinental Hotel, Makati City. Inducted into office by Rep. Edgar N. Chatto, chair, Committee on Tourism of the House of Representatives, were (L-R) vice president-administration Jose Clemente III, vp-outbound Maucie Cuna, vp-inbound Chiqui Teotico, secretary general Maribel Cantada, asst. secretary general Ma. Paz Alberto, president Mariano Ragaza, treasurer Lulu Velasco, asst. treasurer John Paul Cabalza (asst. treasurer), trustees Mary Chua, Sylvia Sangco and Michelle Sierra, and PRO Sony Lopez Gonzalez. Also elected were auditor Teodoro R. Bautista and trustee Natalia P. Francisco. The event was sponsored by Airline of the Month, Philippine Airlines and the Marco Polo Hotel Group.

Spotting your child's gift:
A parent's guide to multiple intelligences

When your child turns one, they may start doodling on the wall, talk a whole lot, or spend most of his waking hours running around playing, you can't help but be tempted to scold him and tell him to "behave." While most parents are likely to think the child is being mischievous, these actions may just be the child's way of exploring and expressing his abilities – of trying out his intelligence.

Intelligence refers to the human ability to solve problems and make something that is valued in one or more cultures.[1] The standard view says intelligence is something you are born with; you only have a certain amount of it; and tests can tell you how smart you are. The theory of Multiple Intelligences challenges that view.[2]

> MI theory suggests that the traditional notion of intelligence based on IQ testing is far too limited.

According to Harvard professor Dr. Howard Gardner, children, like adults, will differ in the things they understand best. He suggests that there are 8 forms of intelligence, and each child possesses these in varying degrees.

The Eight Kinds of Intelligence

Linguistic Intelligence

This is the ability to use words and language to express thoughts and opinions. Lawyers, journalists and poets are some people considered to have high linguistic intelligence. Children who are linguistic-intelligent may display a knack for speaking and writing, or show interest in reading books and listening to stories.

Logical-Mathematical Intelligence

It is the capacity to analyze and understand problems logically, or to manipulate numbers, quantities and operations. Most mathematicians have this trait. Children with this intelligence are good at reasoning and solving problems, even at an early age.

Spatial Intelligence

This refers to the ability to represent the world internally in your mind. Children with this intelligence learn best visually; they like to see what you are talking about. They enjoy charts, graphs, maps, tables, illustrations, art, puzzles, costumes – anything "eye-catching". Navigators, pilots, sculptors, architects, chess players and graphic artists use this intelligence.

Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence

It is the capacity to use your whole body (or its parts) to solve a problem, make something, or to put on some kind of production. You may see it in children who learn best through activity: games, hands-on tasks, and building. These children were often labeled "overly active" in traditional classrooms and were told to sit and "be still". Dancers, actors, athletes, craftspersons, surgeons, mechanics and other technical professions depend on this intelligence.

Musical Intelligence

It is the ability to think in music, to be able to hear patterns, recognize them, remember them and manipulate them. You can see it in children who learn well through songs, patterns, rhythms, instruments and musical expression. Sadly, it is easy to overlook children with this intelligence in traditional education.

Interpersonal Intelligence

It is the capacity to understand intentions, motivations and desires of other people and consequently, to work effectively with others. It is evident in children who are noticeably people-oriented and outgoing, and do their learning cooperatively with other groups of children. These children may have typically been identified as "talkative" or " too concerned about being social" in a traditional setting. Salespersons, teachers, religious and political leaders all need a high degree of interpersonal intelligence.

Intrapersonal Intelligence

It refers to having an understanding of self, of knowing who you are, what you can do, and how you react to things and to use such information effectively in regulating your own life. Children who are especially in touch with their own feelings, values and ideas are said to have high intrapersonal intelligence. They may tend to be more reserved, but they are actually quite intuitive about what they learn and how it relates to themselves.

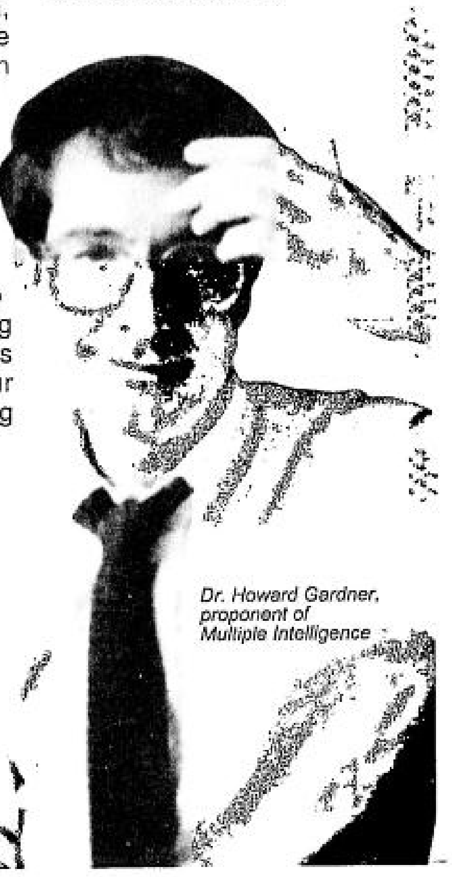
Naturalist Intelligence

It is the ability to discriminate among living things, as well as the sensitivity to other features of the natural world. In children, it manifests as love for the outdoors and animals. More than this, though, these children love to pick subtle differences in meanings. Environmentalists and scientists use this kind of intelligence.

Knowledge about the eight different intelligences may help educate parents in recognizing and understanding their child's gift. As parents, we are our children's primary mentors. Along with giving our children proper care and proper nutrition, we must also find out how they learn best in order to develop their true potential.

To help parents learn more about Multiple Intelligence, Promil Kid, the ProGifted Formula for children 1 year onwards, is sponsoring a conference called "Changing Minds: Teaching and Parenting for the 21st Century". Learn more from Dr. Howard Gardner himself about your child's multiple intelligences, how you can support and nourish them.

The First Multiple Intelligence Convention will be held on February 11 & 12, 2005 at the Manila Hotel. Call 433-4949 for more details. Don't miss it!



Dr. Howard Gardner, proponent of Multiple Intelligence

References:

[1,2] Checkley, Kathy, 1997. Educational Leadership/September. The First Seven...and the Eighth. A Conversation with Howard Gardner.

[3] Armstrong, Thomas. Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 1994.

"Don't stop feeding her mind."
-Beth Picart, Ruth's mom
GIFTED CHILD
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Twelve-year old Ruth has had 14 art exhibits. Her mind is a well of creative ideas that never fails to produce impressive art. Ruth's mother, Beth, recalls the request of famous local artist, Mr. Fernando Sena, to collect her daughter's works for Ruth's first solo art exhibit. "Nagulat ako! She was only 11 then!"

Beth shares the secret to her daughter's amazing achievements. "Right exposure and the family's support are vital. Guide her in exploring her talent." As soon as she noticed her child's inclination toward the visual arts, Beth enrolled Ruth in painting classes, provided her with materials, and remained a constant source of encouragement and praise. "Always nourish her mind", she stresses. "Provide her with the best nutrition. At ituluy-tuloy mo lang ang pagsuporta."

Starting age 1, continue nourishing your child's gift with Promil Kid. Promil Kid is the ProGifted Formula which helps increase your child's capacity to learn. It has essential nutrients at the right amounts – a balanced ratio of LNA and LA, Zinc, and 5 Nucleotides including IMP. Promil Kid, combined with your genes and the right environment, may help your child reach his full potential.

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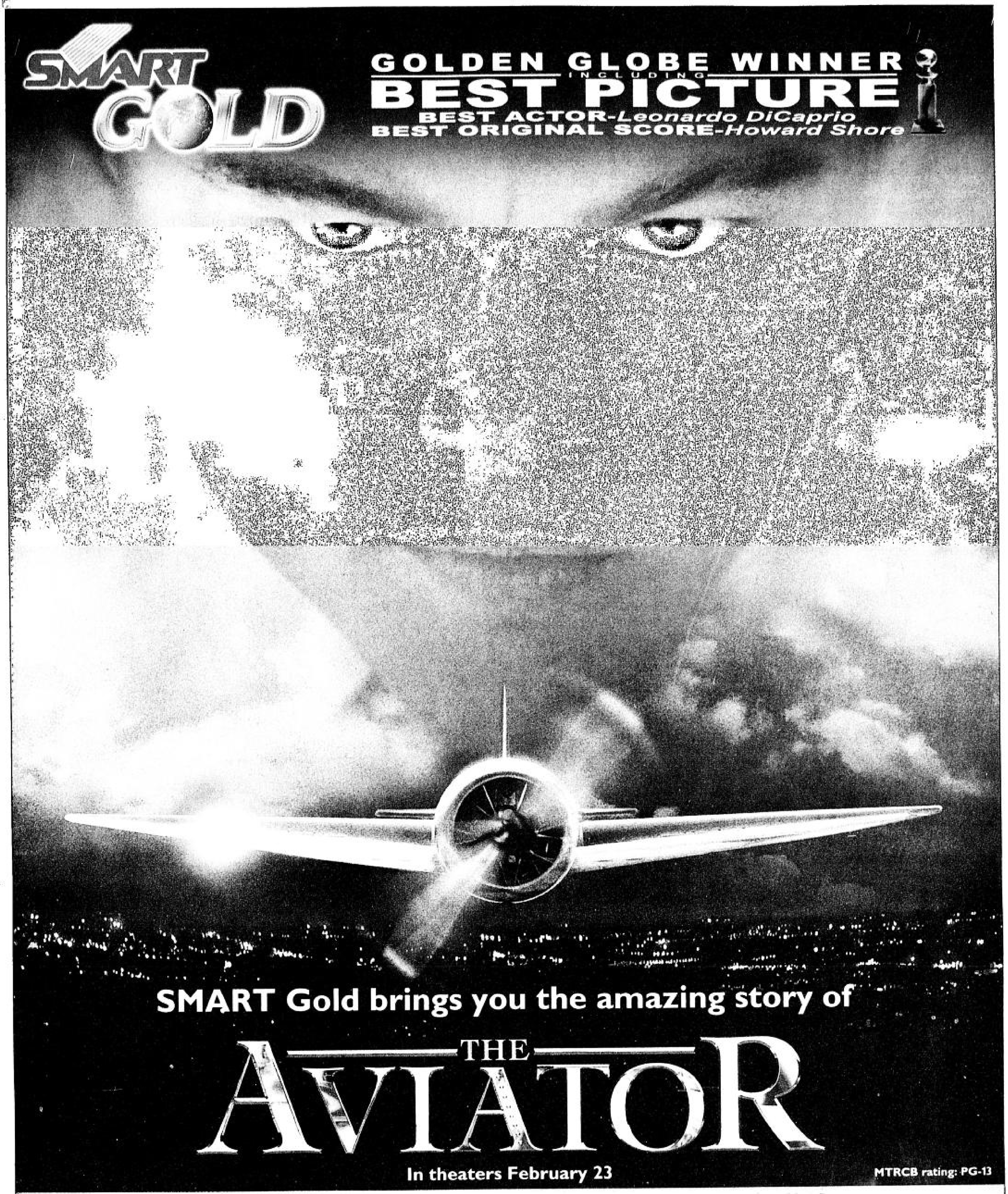
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My Girl	Smokey Robinson	mygirl
Lovin' You	Minnie Riperton	lovinu
For Once In My Life	Spiral Staircase	foronce
Ohh Baby Baby	Smokey Robinson & The Miracles	ohhbaby
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Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

GAMIAO-BALBIN

Michael Gamiao, son of **Percival** and **Crispina Gamiao**, recently exchanged vows with **Shiela Balbin**, daughter of **Edmundo** and **Leticia Balbin**, at Immaculate Heart of Mary in UP Diliman, QC.

Reception followed at Patio Ibarra, QC. **Emily Sy** of ESY Creations designed the bride's and her entourage's gowns.

CANELA-CABRERA

James Ortiz Canela, son of **Francisco** and **Marina Canela** of Subic Ibaba, Agoncillo, Batangas, wed recently **Dea Maranan Cabrera**, daughter of **Lamberto** and **Rufina vda. de Cabrera** of Lemery, Batangas, at Saint Vincent De Paul Parish-Adamson Church on Taft Avenue, Manila. Reception followed at the Banquet Hall of Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City. **Delia Morales** created the clothes of the bride, entourage and the groom.

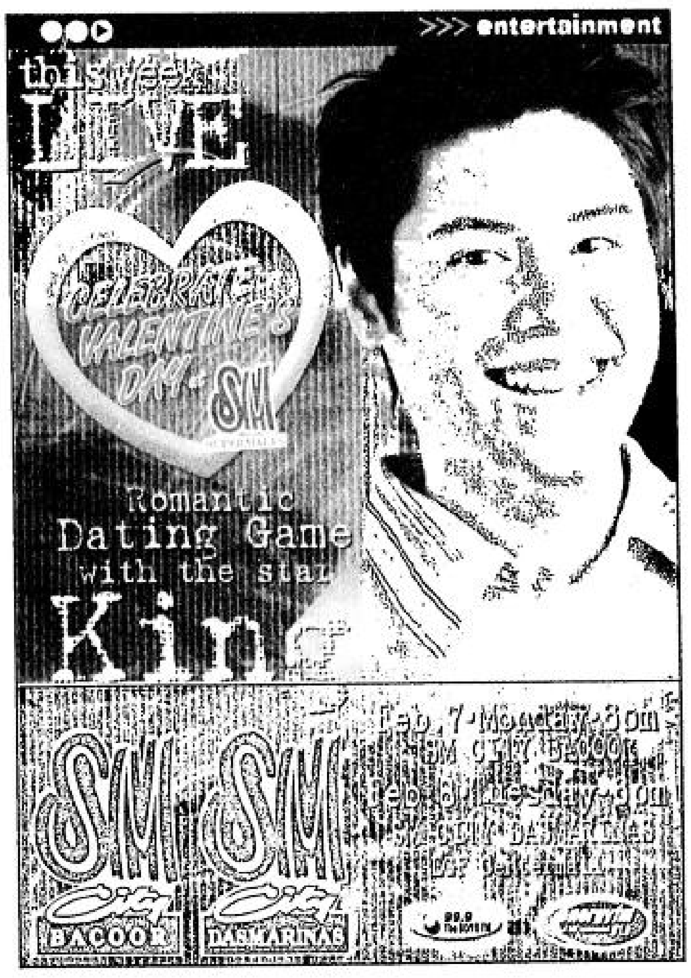
'Kasalan sa Forbes'

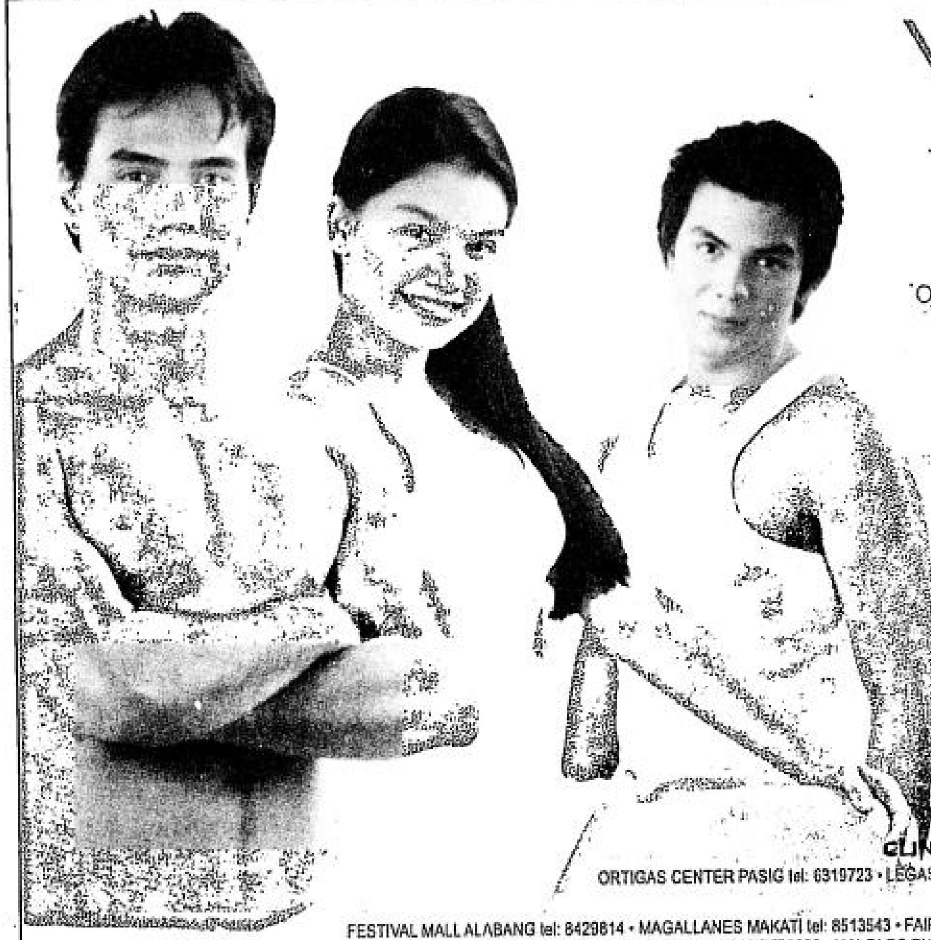
THE WEDDING fair "May Kasalan sa Forbes Park" is being held until today at Santuario de San Antonio Church Center, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

The fair showcases wedding gowns by Manila's top couturiers, wedding essentials, supplies and allied services. Exhibition time is 10 a.m-6 p.m.

Rudy Fuentes created two designs using materials like satin de laine and duchess taffeta, highlighted by different crystals cut beads and tiny pearls. A strapless gown in duchess taffeta has waves of shimmering pleats from the bustline, circling the bodice down to the hemline. Tiny pearls and crystals are scattered all over.

Another Fuentes creation is a strapless wedding ensemble of satin de laine forming drapes at the back hips highlighted with a big bow. Different sizes of crystals adorn two separate trains.





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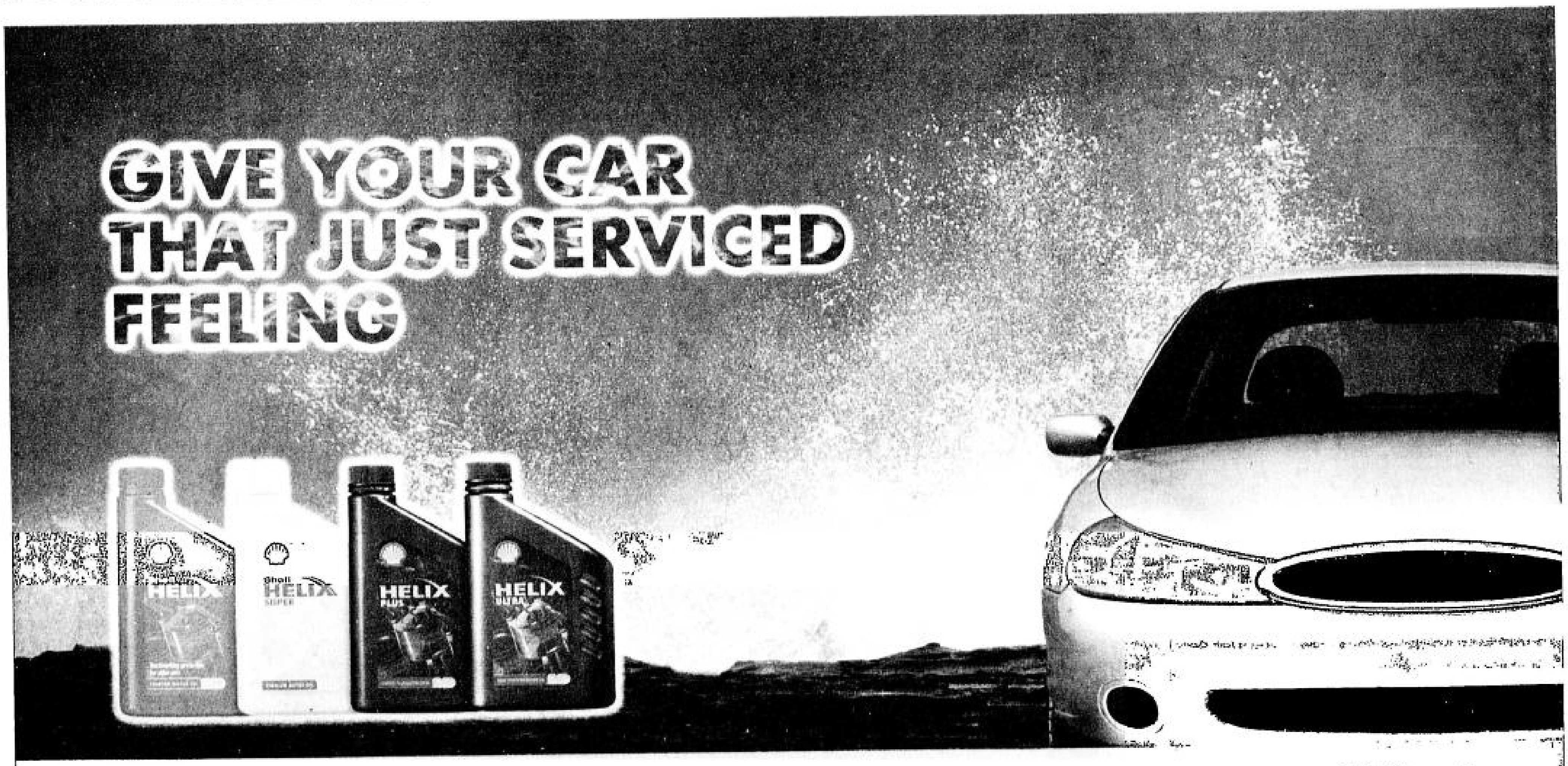

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Francisca Pulanco and Venancio Flores celebrate 60 years of marriage

WITH THEIR children, grandchildren and great grandchildren

Still in love after all these years

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Roger Carpio

WHEN Francisca Pulanco and Venancio Flores, both 84, talk about their 60 years of marriage, their treasured love story is as fresh in their minds as yesterday.

Paz and Ven were both 24 when they tied the knot on July 8, 1944, not the best of times to venture into a lifetime commitment. It was the third year of Japanese occupation. Life was uncertain; danger lurked everywhere.

"Some guerrillas were courting Paz then so I immediately proposed to her after more than four years of going steady," Ven said.

Paz never had a serious boyfriend yet she found herself strangely drawn to the young man.

"For me, he was the right man for he was very religious. He was already working at that time so I thought he would be a responsible father and husband. Besides, we're from the same town so our families know one another," Paz said.

Ven and Paz hail from Bauang, La Union. Ven was an architect; Paz, a teacher.

It was six months before the war when their paths crossed. Ven was a working student then at GSIS in Manila. On his way home to Legarda, Manila, he met a classmate, who introduced him to Paz. Since then, he had been passing by her boarding house just to say hello. Paz was studying then at National Teachers College; Ven, at Far Eastern University.

"I had a number of suitors, but I didn't entertain them because I wanted to finish my studies first," Paz said.

Before Ven courted Paz, he went steady with the latter's cousin for two years. But he followed instead his sister Meling's advice to propose to Paz, who Ven describes as "an independent and strong-minded woman."

Challenges

After four years of being married, Ven decided to finish architecture, but his studies were interrupted by the outbreak of war. He lived in Manila while Paz accepted a teaching job in La Union, taking with her their two kids.

Ven was able to visit them every two months. "I was touched by Paz's great sacrifice and sad to see how they were able to manage their daily life. So I did my best to finish my course so I could bring them to Manila and be a family again."

After 60 years, Ven and Paz have been blessed with six children—Victor, Irma, Susan, Marilyn, Cecilia and Winston; 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

For the couple, the secret of their long union lies in "having a cheerful disposition, giving equal attention to children and avoiding arguments as much as we can," Paz said.

"One has to be understanding," she added. "There were times you'd get jealous especially when he would come home late but I wouldn't make it a big issue. Well, all boys are like that."

Anniversary

Ven and Paz recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary at the Holy Family Church in Kamias, Quezon City. Reception was at Sulo Hotel.

The principal sponsors were Benjamin Espinosa, Elpidio Rimando and Melchor Flores, Dolores Flores, Susan Espinosa and Felicidad Calica.

The matrons of honor were Maela and Nelia Flores. Best men were Massoud and Cyrus Adibpour. Maids of honor were Kristine Flores and Mina Adibpour.

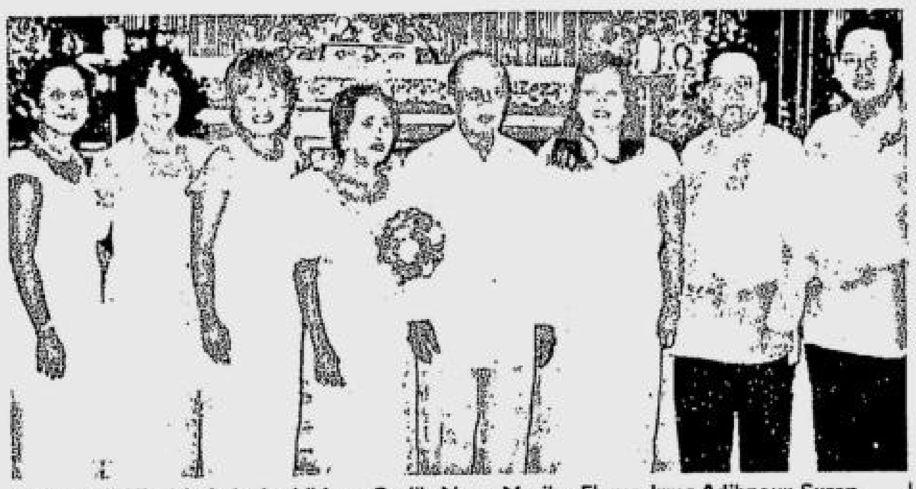
The groomsmen were Donn Rhett Nava, Vladimir Kenneth Flores, Felix Cana, Jr., Robert Jason Nava and Oliver Flores. The bridesmaids were Rica Cran Flores, Cherry Anne Flores, Monica Cana, Annegelica Nava and Valerie Anne Nava.

Secondary sponsors were Irma Adibpour and Victor Flores (candle); Cecilia Nava and Nilo Nava (veil); Marilyn and Winston Flores (cord).

Ring bearer was Stephen Lex Cana; arrhae bearer, Kane Duncan Flores; Bible bearer, Geraldhy Kyle Flores; veil and cord bearer, Mykel Angelo Paredes. Flower girls were Samantha Camille Diesta and Maxine Aurora Avila.

It was a grandiose celebration for the whole clan, but Ven and Paz advised their relatives and guests to donate to charity organizations in lieu of gifts. "Our wedding anniversary is a momentous occasion. But for us, helping others is better than spending on such an affair," the couple said.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



THE COUPLE with their six children: Cecilia Nava, Marilyn Flores, Irma Adibpour, Susan Espinosa, Victor Flores and Winston Flores

PRINCIPAL sponsors Dolores Flores, Susan Espinosa and Felicidad Calica

PRINCIPAL sponsors Benjamin Espinosa, Elpidio Rimando and Melchor Flores

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Wedding caps 2004 for Syquia family

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

IF two souls are destined for each other/ They are sure to meet at the crossroads of life."

One of the last weddings of the year 2004 was that of **Maria Theresita "Tess" Mangahas**, only daughter of Mr. and Ms **Godofredo Mangahas**, who exchanged vows with **Jose Luis Corpus Syquia**, son of **Letty** and Ambassador **Enrique Syquia**, at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park. The main celebrant was the groom's very own brother, Rev. Fr. **Jose Francisco Syquia**.

It was especially poignant to see Ambassador Syquia; who passed away last week, arrive in a wheelchair to receive and welcome the bride as she walked down the aisle. Tess wore a **Letlet Veloso** Filipiniana-inspired gown to match Joel's **Ben Farrales** barong tagalog.

A simple sit-down dinner for 250 guests followed at the Polo Club with **Joe Mari Chan**'s serenade as highlight of the program.

Cabanatuan raid

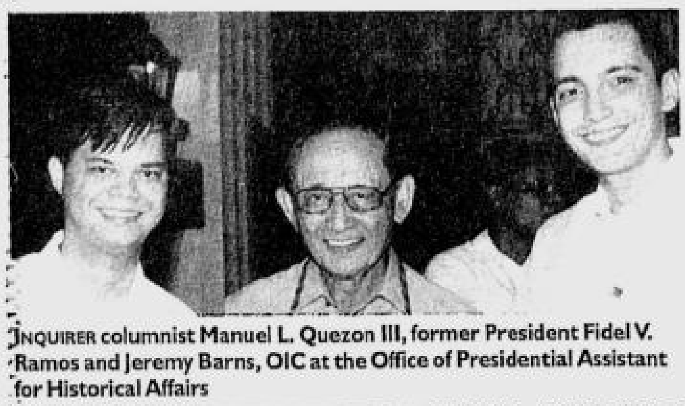
If you haven't got a copy you should rush to a bookstore nearest you and grab a copy of **Hampton Sides**' "Ghost Soldiers," which is all about the Cabanatuan raid (bet you knew zilch about that one) and the rescue of a whole camp of American soldiers by the 6th Ranger Battalion led by Lt. **Henry Mucci** in 1945.

United States Ambassador **Francis Ricciardone** hosted the book launch and reception commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Cabanatuan raid at the American embassy, as well as the opening of the embassy's Historical Garden. The author flew in for this very special occasion.

A by-invitation-only special screening of the film adaptation of the book will be held tomorrow. The movie stars **Cesar Montano**, together with **Benjamin Bratt**, **Joseph Fiennes** and **Mark Consuelo**.

New polo season

The first week of January saw the opening of the 2005 Polo Season at the Manila Polo Club, a very important and sentimental occasion since the field was dedicated to one of the heroes of polo in the Philippines and first Filipino president of the club, Don Enrique Zobel. The celebration also marked the awarding of the Past Presidents' Cup and the induction of new lifetime members of the club.



INQUIRER columnist Manuel L. Quezon III, former President Fidel V. Ramos and Jeremy Barns, OIC at the Office of Presidential Assistant for Historical Affairs

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone with US Deputy Chief of Mission Joseph Mussomeli, Hampton Sides, Cabanatuan Gov. Tomas Joson and Ambassador Paul Speltz of the ADB

DR. Julita Layug (right), a veteran doctor who attended to the American soldiers after the Cabanatuan raid, and her granddaughter Clarinda Luna

NEWLYWEDS Tess and Joel Syquia

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Milestones

OLONAN 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Architect **Enrique** and **Cecilia Olonan** celebrated recently their silver wedding anniversary at the Christ the King Parish Church in Greenmeadows, QC. Reception followed at the Isla Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Pasig City.

He is from Viga, Catanduanes, while she is from San Carlos, Pangasinan. They have four children: **Steve, Erick, Hencel** and **John**.

The couple is shown above with the principal sponsors (from left) architect **Yolanda Reyes** (representing architect **Prosperidad Luis**), **Edelwina Liwanag, Nonie Basilio, Imelda Gomez**, Marikina City Mayor **Marides Fernando**, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair **Bayani Fernando**, Transportation and Communication Secretary **Leandro Mendoza**, former Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair **Felicito Payumo**, Budget Undersecretary **Luis Liwanag** and former GMA 7 chair **Menardo Jimenez**.

FERGUSON-CRUZ

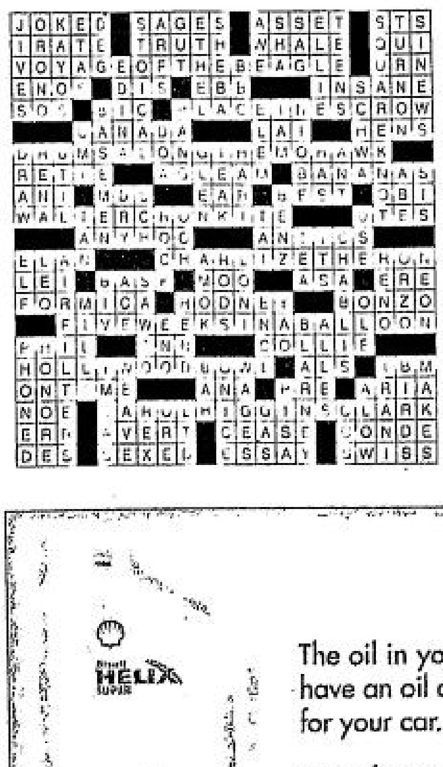
Michelle Elaine Cruz, daughter of the late Dr. **Juanito P. Cruz** and **Angelita Caluag-Cruz**, will exchange vows with **Richard Ferguson**, son of Mr. and Ms **Thomas Ferguson** of Australia, on Feb. 13 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at Father Blanco's Garden.

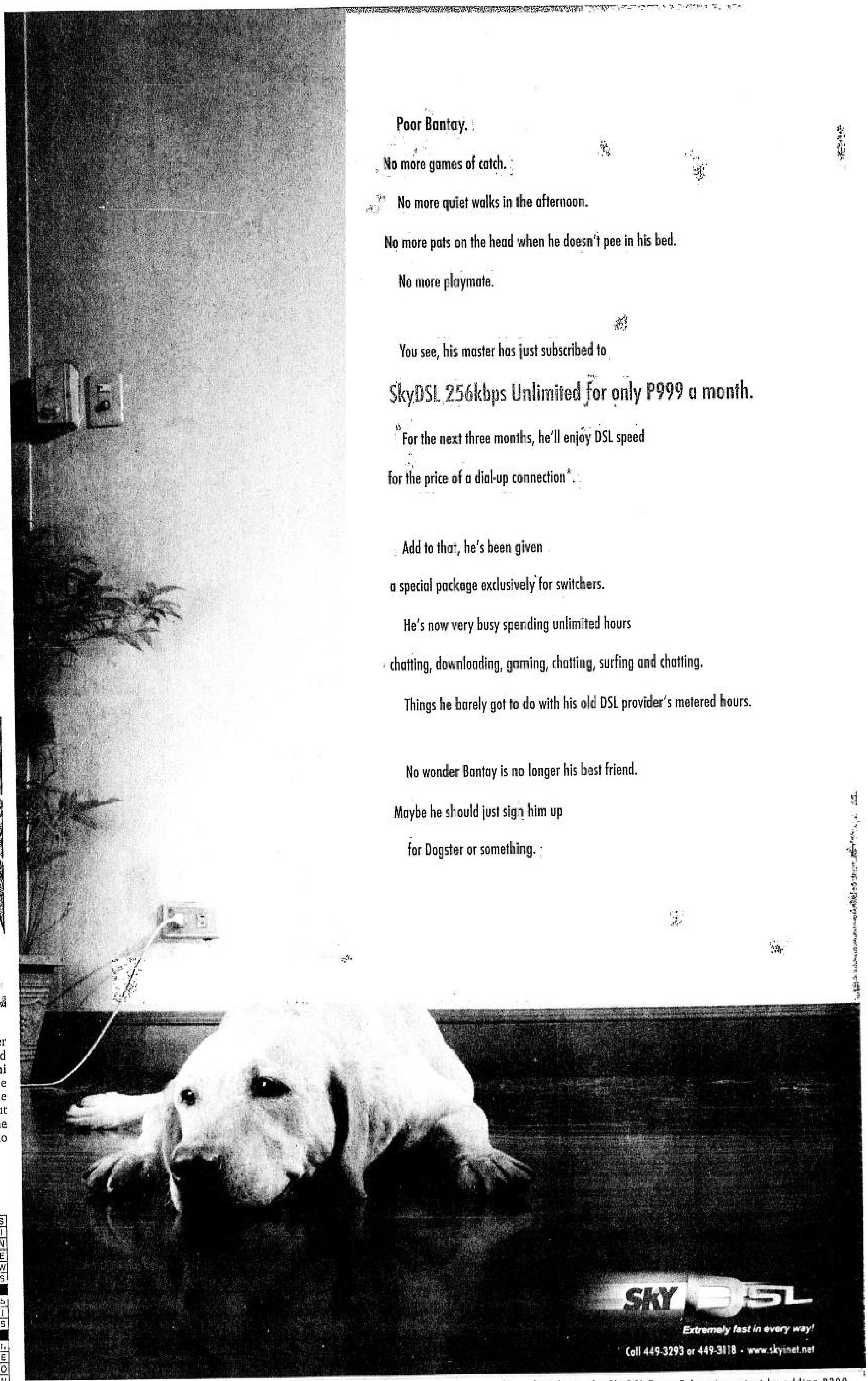
The bridal gown and gowns of the entourage were designed by Totoy Madriaga.

VILLANUEVA-ACORDA

Ma. Christina Katindig Acorda, daughter of **Anacleto** and **Victoria Acorda**, will wed **Archie Tañedo Villanueva**, son of **Bayani** and **Cresencia Villanueva**, on April 23 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Reception will be held at the Coconut Palace. **Ramon Santiago** will create the bride's ecru gown. **Bambbi Fuentes** will do her makeup.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD





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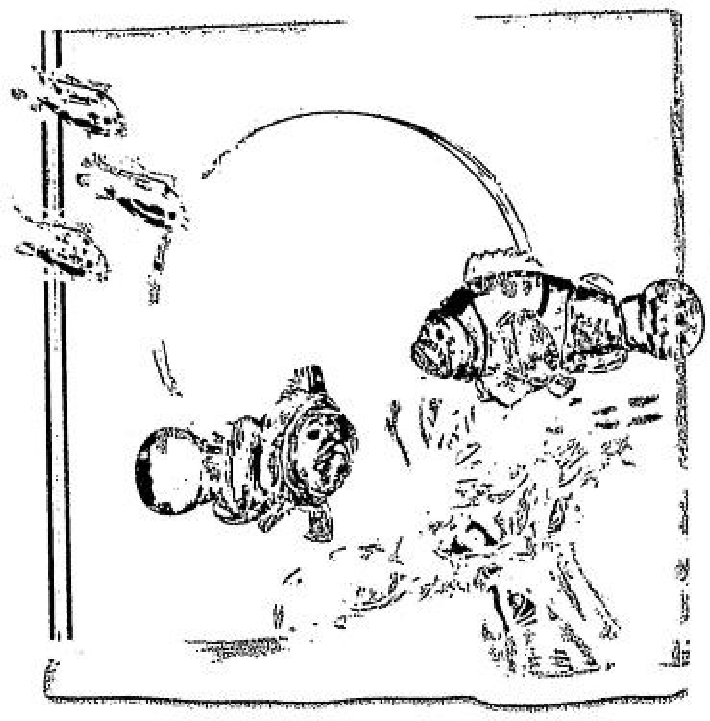

"WONDERS of the Sea" by Martin Zendron JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Ocean deep

Swarovski launches the first of its 'Wonders of the Sea' trilogy

Story on page G2

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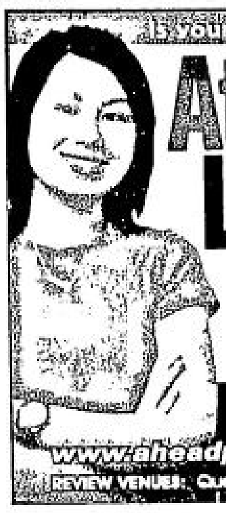

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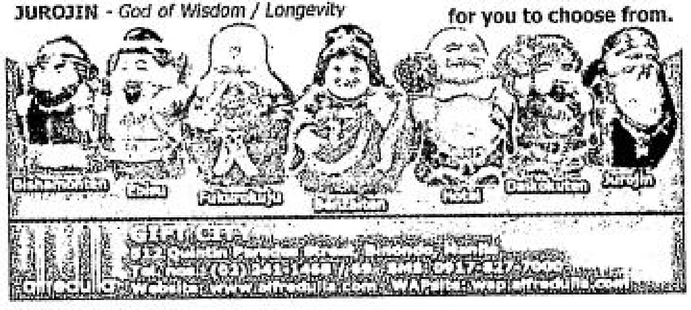

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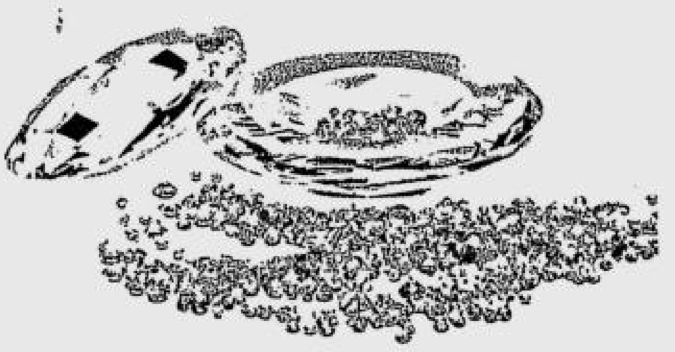


AUSTRIAN crystals like no other

CRYSTAL starfish

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Alex Y. Vergara

EVERY time he feels weighed down by the rigors of everyday living, crystal designer Martin Zendron slips into his diving suit and savors the beauty and wonders of the sea. While not a few landlubbers find the underwater realm dark and dangerous, Zendron revels in its mysteries and is instantly recharged after every dive.

"Whenever I go for a dive," says Zendron, director of the Swarovski Design Center in Austria, "I leave the everyday hustle and bustle behind and feel infused with a new lust for life."

Zendron shares his love affair with the sea through "Harmony," his latest creation and the first of three pieces in Swarovski's "Wonders of the Sea" trilogy. The Austrian-based company has been coming out with a trilogy of crystal pieces for the home since avid collectors formed the Swarovski Crystal Society in 1987. As in previous trilogies, this latest piece (P25,000 a pop), the company's seventh, is exclusively available to society members.

MABEL Lim, sales manager of Swarovski's consumer goods division

Launched recently at the poolside of the Forbes Park home of Rustan's patriarch and former ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., "Harmony" features a pair of clownfish (yes, the same species that inspired creators of the hit animated feature "Finding Nemo") living in, well, harmony with a sea anemone and three smaller fishes.

The artwork consists of a vertical glass base with a circular opening in the center. The plate forms the base for the two large clownfish and a little shoal of three smaller fishes at the top left-hand side. The display set is sand-colored and serves as a stand for the 20-cm high crystal object and for the display backdrop.

Next two

The next two pieces in the trilogy—"Eternity" and "Community"—will be launched in 2006 and 2007. Although the three pieces aren't numbered, they will be on sale for a limited time only. Members and would-be members have up to 2007 to complete the "Wonders of the Sea" collection.

It took three years for Zendron to see his design come to life. In between those years, he had his sketches approved by Swarovski executives. Once the design was approved, he went into the initial stage of production with the company's manufacturing team. This included making sure the factory in Austria had the facilities to cut the crystals to suit his vision.

Singapore-based Mabel Lim, sales manager of Swarovski's consumer goods division, recently flew in for the launch, which was heralded by a team of modern dancers in body-hugging outfits. The series offers a first that's bound to excite Swarovski fans, says Lim.

"During past trilogies, collectors were limited to only one version," she says. "This time they can choose from one rendered in clear crystal and another in colored crystal, as seen in the pair of orange clownfish with black stripes."

In previous trilogies, she adds, you need to acquire three pieces to form a story. Not this time, as the three pieces are independent of each other. Lim is mum as to who designed the next two pieces, but she assures members that they're aimed to complement "Harmony."

"Every trilogy possesses a distinct beauty and story," she says. "It also boils down to how you relate to a particular piece." Can't make up your mind whether to go for plain or colored, then why not go for both? One can certainly use more harmony in the home.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

And it's not even leap year

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcel

DEAR Emily,

A boy started sending me text messages. But I ignored him since that game was new to me. He then tried calling, but I was not interested.

But when we met, I immediately fell in love with him. Sadly, he stopped sending messages after that. Then, I was the one pursuing him.

Though he doesn't answer, I have not stopped sending him messages. He has suggested we meet but that has not happened until now.

You said in a previous column girls could not take rejection. I don't believe that. I don't think I am ugly. I think we just met at the wrong time because he told me he had a girlfriend.

Please convince me he is the wrong guy for me!

SARAH

Convince you not to stand in front of an oncoming train? Will a billboard on Edsa with a sign screaming "He doesn't care a hoot about you!" wake you up? He may have started the ball rolling, then stopped the ball before it rolled any further after he met you. Translation—he didn't like what he saw.

You didn't have to be ugly. You could have been Miss Universe but he just didn't feel any chemistry between you. Painful but true.

And now he is being a creep asking you to meet him knowing he does not mean it. Isn't he just the perfect poster boy for jerks?

Remember this, no matter how happily married, engaged with mortgage, spiritually faithful, intellectually committed or even sexually devoted a man is to a woman—be it a wife or lover—he will always manage to communicate with someone he finds particularly mind-blowing at the moment.

The message may be as simple as a five-second glance or an unabashed dead-stare but he definitely will deliver it!

Stop being so dense. Follow the law of the jungle next time. Let the male do the hunting. And believe me—it's more exciting to have a man running after, than away from, you.

Masquerade

I am 16, bisexual and longing for real love—the I-can't-live-without-you kind. I got hooked on Friendster and opened two accounts, one for me and the other for a "friend" to fool and play around with. It was suppesed to be for my friend O but he wasn't interested.

My life was so boring and definitely loveless until J sent a message to my O account asking me to be his friend. We became fast friends. I told J I was rich, I loved women and that I had a kid—details about O whose persona I have stolen.

We started having late phone conversations. When he asked for a photo, I sent O's picture, who is so good-looking being of European and Asian mix. After some weeks, J asked if he could be my boyfriend. He begged me to meet him but I made up excuses. I've seen his picture and he's not even good-looking. He's bald and I hate bald men!

I told myself there's nothing to lose if J pursued me, after all, it was only a phone relationship. The guy got so hooked he'd leave messages greeting me when I woke up, and would be jealous if I didn't call during the day.

Then I fell in love with him. I didn't want to start the new year feeling guilty so I tried to set things straight. I confessed I wasn't even a fraction of the man I was pretending to be. We both cried on the phone.

I was so happy when he said he forgave me and he still loved me. We even planned to meet for the first time on Jan. 8. But first, he wanted to have my real picture. I did, but he never said anything afterward. He canceled our meeting saying he was too busy. When we set another date, he canceled again.

Now, I think he has lost interest. He doesn't send text messages anymore and he ignores my calls. I love the guy so much! Should I still pursue him?

GLENN

Who wouldn't go bonkers over a drop-dead gorgeous rich hunk? That's like bumping into Brad Pitt at the mall and bringing him home no questions asked!

For six months, J must have been having an out-of-body experience, drooling rivers over you, unable to believe his luck, only to find out—thanks to an attack of guilt—it was all a hoax!

You're just 16 and already you talk about "I-can't-live-without-you love." Yet, you're not too young to be devious and set up a bogus account as a tool to fool. How do you... how can you reconcile passion and sincerity with lies and cunning?

You deserve what he's doing to you! He came into Friendster with an open heart and you were the sly manipulator who set up a dream relationship built on lies. Would you have continued if your conscience had not shamed you?

J may be bald and not your type, but apparently he thinks you're no great prize yourself. Cut off all communications with him before anything bad happens. Be thankful he didn't track you down and beat the living daylights out of you for making a fool of him.

Don't force your way into his life anymore. Stop it already! You might just provoke him into doing something really bad.

You're young, you'll survive. But learn from this failed con game. If you want a love affair that will last longer than your cell phone, begin with something simple like honesty. True love will find you, no matter how ugly, dirt-poor, and boringly ordinary you are. No need for the glitz. They blind, they dazzle, but they mean zilch!

Get a life, finish school and get off that cell phone.

Send e-mail to emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 pm, Monday-Friday on dwBR 104.3 FM)

FISH replies to criticisms of its report

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

WHEN the book on the state of Philippine marine fisheries called "In Turbulent Seas" came out last year, we reported on the findings of the scientific team that collated the data. We mentioned that publication of the book was one of the ways FISH (Fisheries Improved for Sustainable Harvests) could call attention to the conditions of Philippine fisheries and our seas in general.

FISH is a seven-year technical assistance program implemented by the Department of Agriculture (DA), specifically the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), other national government agencies (ex. Coastal Resource Management Project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources or DENR, local government units or LGUs) and non-government organizations, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development.

The book has five sections, each one focusing on a particular fisheries aspect with data gathered by its own team of scientists/researchers. Data were gathered systematically and scientifically by people who knew what they were about.

Urgent need

The reason for the book, the authors explained in the preface, was the "urgent need for better management and protection of the resources that contribute substantially to the country's food security and subsistence of some of the most marginalized people in Philippine society."

It was apparent to all those involved in the book that the best way to make those improvements possible was to show the status of our seas including the Pacific Seaboard, the South China Sea and 12 Philippine bays.

Results of the studies conducted 1994-95 gave a very poor picture of the health of our seas, long known for their rich biodiversity. The situation was due to abuse and mismanagement.

Comparative tables of water quality in different bays showed many of them rated very low. Some provincial officials did not take kindly to this, arguing that negative reports could only drive away future investors and destroy their provinces' chances of developing tourism. They also said the scientists' provincial counterparts were not consulted. Officials of at least one province sent their objections to the media.

In the wake of these developments, we requested FISH managers to explain their side, which they did in writing. They also replied to the complaint that provincial officials sent to the INQUIRER.

The particular subject of the complaint was the piece "Status of Water Quality in Philippine Coastal and Marine Waters" by M. McGlone and her team on pages 96-108 of "In Turbulent Seas." Critics mentioned four specific points. FISH tried to clarify each.

FISH's side

The study, according to critics, was just the result of "table research." It was done through discussions rather than field work. FISH countered that, on the contrary, results of the study were based on assessments consistent with state of the art standards conducted in 1994-95 by United Business Technology Inc., (UBTech), a local environmental consultancy firm, as commissioned by BFAR-FSP (Fisheries Sector Program). The McGlone findings were thus based on hard data and not products of table research.

Critics also decried the lack of consultations and briefings with local officials. FISH explained that consultations were in fact undertaken by UBTech with a wide range of stakeholders, including local government units, immediately after the study as called for in the contract between UBTech and BFAR-FSP.

A third criticism was that the findings were unreliable and had to be reviewed. FISH reiterated they were products of standard water quality collection and analysis protocols. Example of a finding: fecal coliform count in Sorsogon Bay measured 780,000 most probable number (MPN) per 100 ml., which was way above the acceptable standard of 200 MPN/ml.

It's been 10 years since the study, said the critics, so findings of the water quality conditions applied to the time the study was made and not the present. This, replied FISH, was made quite clear in the paper. And if, after the study, corrective measures were undertaken by local officials, that would have been a laudable effort, worthy of support.

But one must note that only an assessment of the water quality in a bay through such interventions as the UBTech study, can show there are indeed improvements in Sorsogon Bay. However, no such improvement report has appeared in any journal or periodical so far, although this is imperative to back claims of improvement in sanitation and management efforts.

In the end, what is essential if the country is to move forward is to look closely at what the UBTech scientists have brought out and then do something about the problems, rather than just criticize.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Las Piñas garden show opens Feb. 11

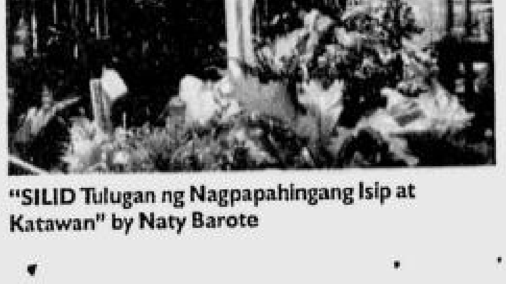
THE LAS Piñas Garden Club's 13th Annual Garden Show and Exhibit opens on Feb. 11, 3 p.m., at the Philamlife Village Park, Las Piñas City. The show will run until Feb. 28.

It will feature eight landscape exhibits depicting different regions.

Experts in horticulture have been invited to the various activities to be held at 4 p.m. daily.: Feb. 12, Bonsai Lover's Day; Feb. 13, Senior Citizen's Day; Feb. 14, Lover's Day; Feb. 15, Cacti and Succulents; Feb. 16, Bromeliads; Feb. 17, Ferns; Feb. 18, Student's Day; Feb. 19, Flower Lover's Day; Feb. 20, Day of the Masters; Feb. 26, Winners Day (winners will speak about their winning plants); and Feb. 27, Dish Gardening Workshop.

A garden bazaar will sell a wide variety of plants and garden paraphernalia.

Call 8751889, 8715752 or [illegible]

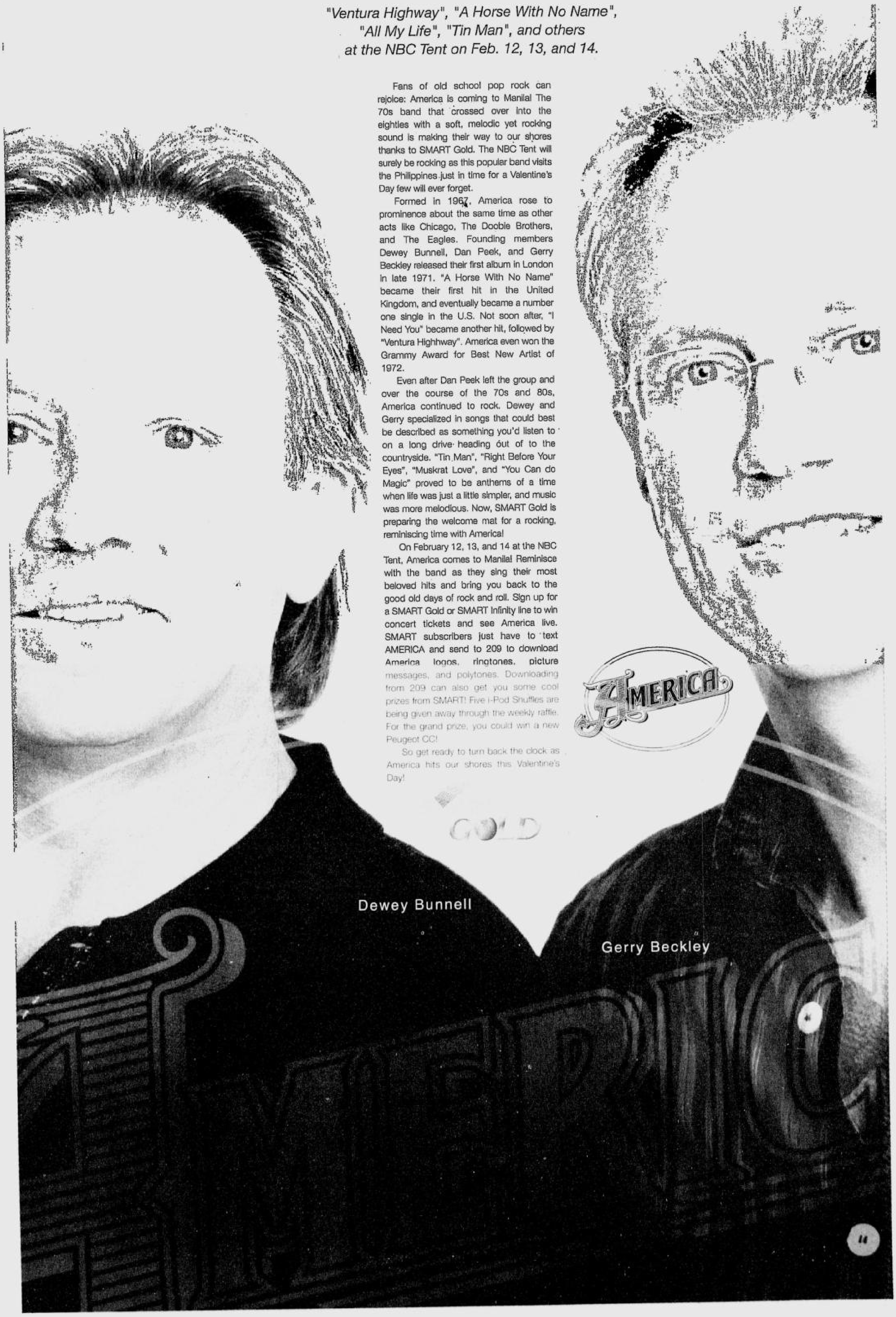


"SILID Tulugan ng Nagpapahingang Isip at Katawan" by Naty Barote

Bring Back the Memories with America and SMART Gold

Listen to classic hits like

"Ventura Highway", "A Horse With No Name", "All My Life", "Tin Man", and others at the NBC Tent on Feb. 12, 13, and 14.



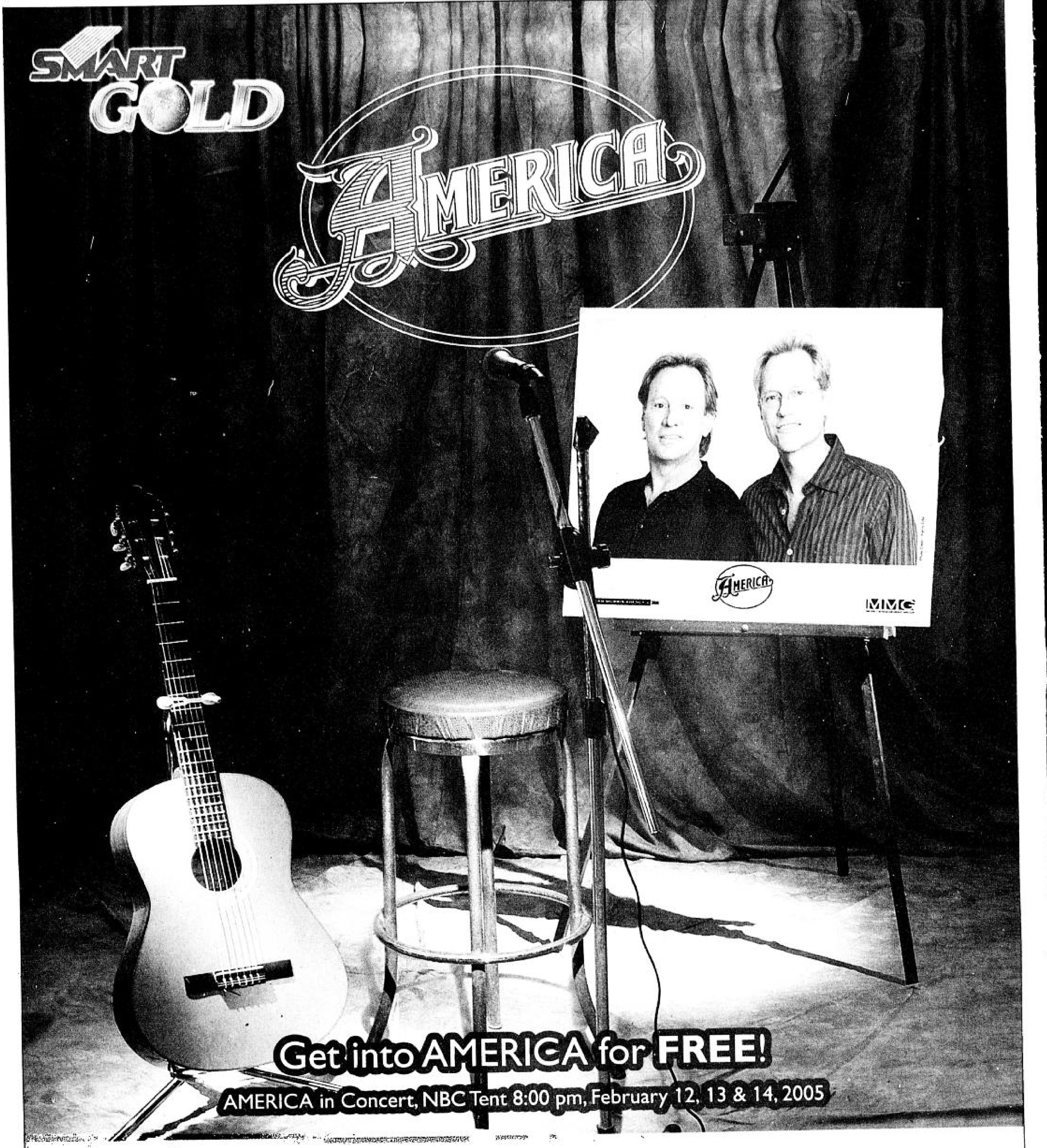
Fans of old school pop rock can rejoice: America is coming to Manila! The 70s band that crossed over into the eighties with a soft, melodic yet rocking sound is making their way to our shores thanks to SMART Gold. The NBC Tent will surely be rocking as this popular band visits the Philippines just in time for a Valentine's Day few will ever forget.

Formed in 1967, America rose to prominence about the same time as other acts like Chicago, The Doobie Brothers, and The Eagles. Founding members Dewey Bunnell, Dan Peek, and Gerry Beckley released their first album in London in late 1971. "A Horse With No Name" became their first hit in the United Kingdom, and eventually became a number one single in the U.S. Not soon after, "I Need You" became another hit, followed by "Ventura Highhway". America even won the Grammy Award for Best New Artist of 1972.

Even after Dan Peek left the group and over the course of the 70s and 80s, America continued to rock. Dewey and Gerry specialized in songs that could best be described as something you'd listen to on a long drive heading out of to the countryside. "Tin Man", "Right Before Your Eyes", "Muskrat Love", and "You Can do Magic" proved to be anthems of a time when life was just a little simpler, and music was more melodious. Now, SMART Gold is preparing the welcome mat for a rocking, reminiscing time with America!

On February 12, 13, and 14 at the NBC Tent, America comes to Manila! Reminisce with the band as they sing their most beloved hits and bring you back to the good old days of rock and roll. Sign up for a SMART Gold or SMART Infinity line to win concert tickets and see America live. SMART subscribers just have to text AMERICA and send to 209 to download America logos, ringtones, picture messages, and polytones. Downloading from 209 can also get you some cool prizes from SMART! Five i-Pod Shuffles are being given away through the weekly raffle. For the grand prize, you could win a new Peugeot CC!

So get ready to turn back the clock as America hits our shores this Valentine's Day!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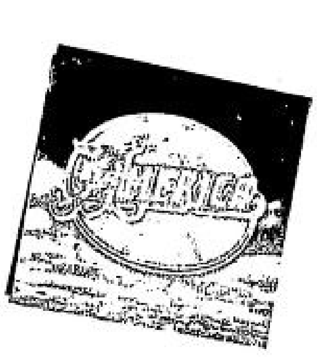

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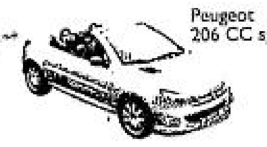

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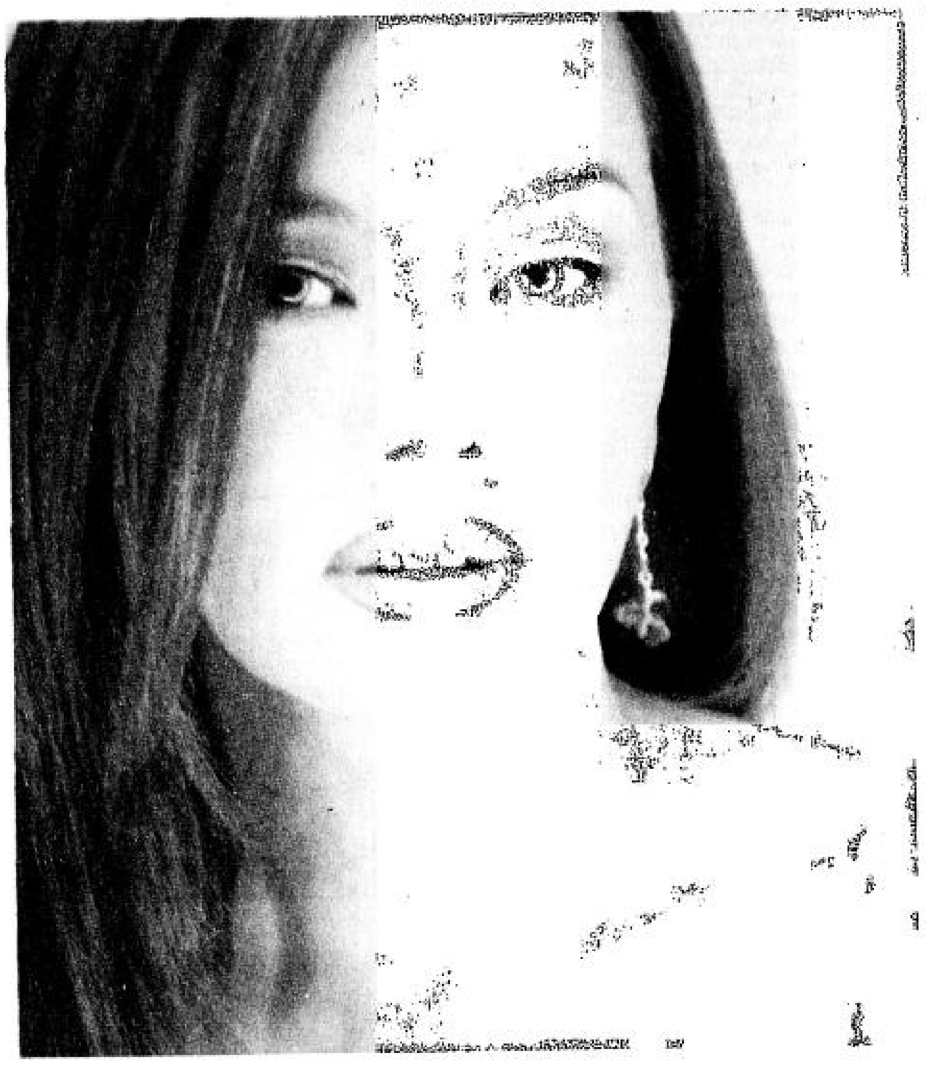
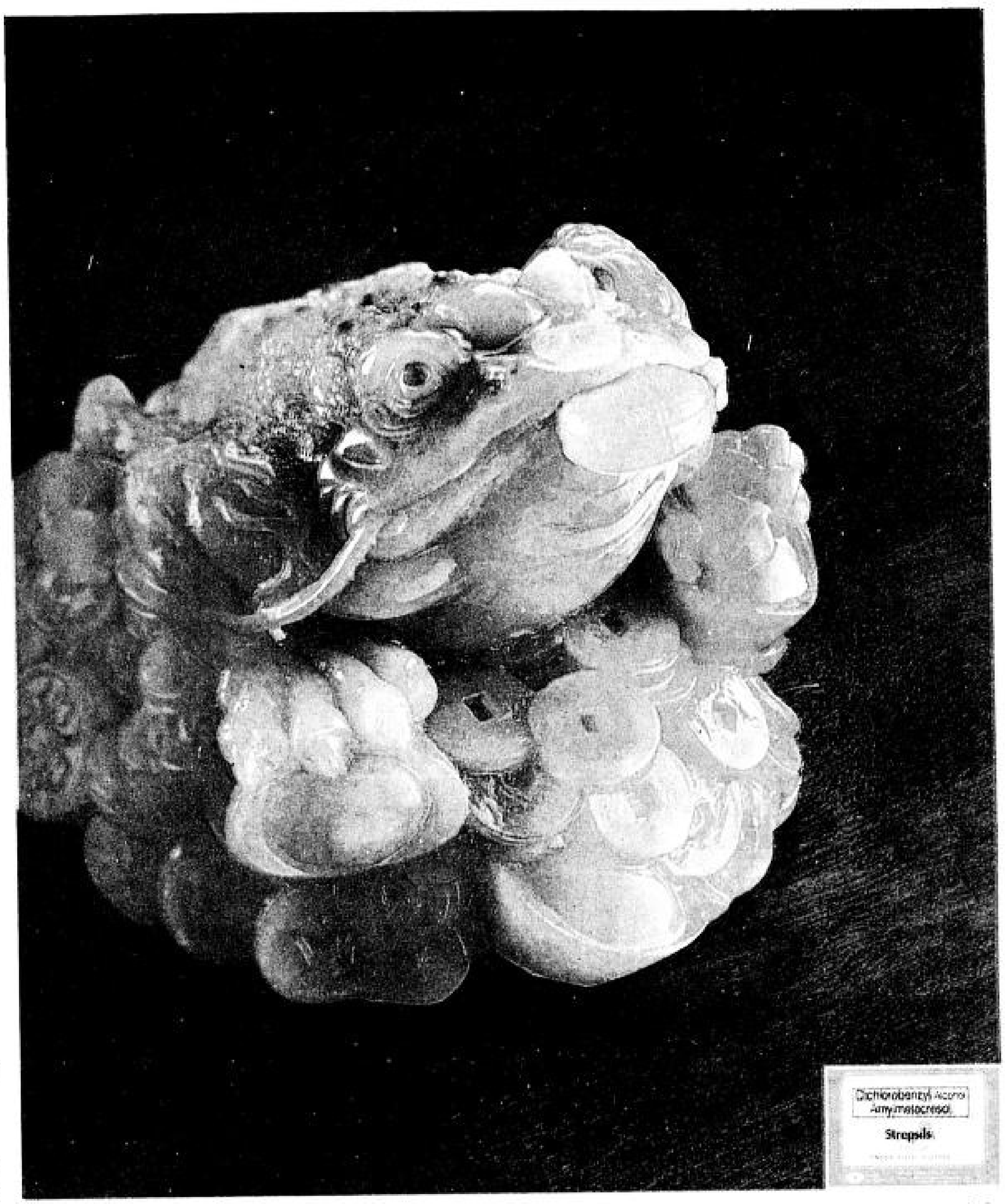


The original diva sings Streisand, Legrand and Groban in a series of shows at the Captain's Bar and marks her silver year



25 years of Kuh Ledesma

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

KUH Ledesma closed 2004 and opened 2005 performing and hosting a countdown in Jakarta, Indonesia.

It was just a few days after the tsunami hit the countries around the Indian Ocean, including Indonesia, and although the affected area of Aceh was far from the capital where Kuh was performing, she said she felt the audience's sadness.

SHOW TIME

While she shared the feeling of the Indonesians, Kuh also felt happy and proud to learn that Filipino musicians in our neighboring country are much admired and respected. "We really excel in music," she smiled.

This Valentine weekend, Kuh will proudly prove again that claim in a series of shows at the Mandarin Oriental Manila titled "The Love Songs of Streisand, Legrand and Groban." She will perform hits by the three celebrated artists but will do so in her own way.

Christian Bautista, who first got the attention of the public with his ala-Josh Groban vocal quality and style, will be her lone guest star.

Kuh, a mainstay on Channel 2's musical-variety show, "Asap," also gears up to do more concerts and specials to mark her silver year in show business.

Canseco song

The silver year brings back some memories for Kuh. For instance, when she was having problems getting permission to use one of her hits, "Ako Ay Pilipino," as a track in the best-of album that she was working on last year, she enlisted the help of the song's composer, George Canseco.

"But then he died," Kuh lamented. The revered songsmith succumbed to cancer on Nov. 19.

"Fortunately, he was able to write a song for me," she said. "He translated the duet of Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony called 'No Me Ames' into Filipino. It's beautiful. I'm going to record it for my next album."

It'll be one of the five albums that Kuh is planning to do in 2005 in celebration of her 25th year in the music industry. She said she'd record best-of albums in Filipino and English, plus a compilation of *kundiman* songs and a collaboration with musician-producer Bob Aves called "Para sa Bayan Kong Mahal."

"And I'm praying that I'll be able to do all of these," she said, laughing. "You see, recording is the hardest thing for me to do. I'm so hard on myself. I don't know when to stop."

But when does she know when a song sounds just right?

"I know when it's good," she replied. "I have a song in my acoustic album that took only two takes to finish. *'Yung iba siguro tig-isang libong* take. Well, *hindi naman!*"

6-month work

Sometimes, though, it's not just her perfectionism that delays the recording process. Before starting work on "Duet with Me," for instance, she felt confident that it would be completed in just a month because she already knew the songs in it by heart. But to her horror, the complicity of singing both the main and second voices of the songs ate up a lot of studio time and the album only saw light after six months.

Thankfully, the people she works with in the studio, including her engineer, already understand her work ethic, said Kuh.

Although she feels satisfied listening to her CDs, the diva ("Only because I wear big gowns") admitted to having a list of her past recordings that she'd like to redo.

"Like when I first recorded 'Ako ay Pilipino, *hindi ko pa siya masyadong* feel. I was young then. I knew I loved my country but I didn't really understand how it was to be patriotic. Now I already know, that's why I can relate to every line of the song."

Then there are some songs that she'd rather not sing, like those with nonsensical lyrics.

"I believe in the power of words," she explained. "It's written in the Bible that life and death are in the power of tongue. We will face whatever consequences for what comes out of our mouth. I don't feel sorry for not singing a song just because I don't approve of some of its words. I can change them but I find doing that corny."

Excited, motivated

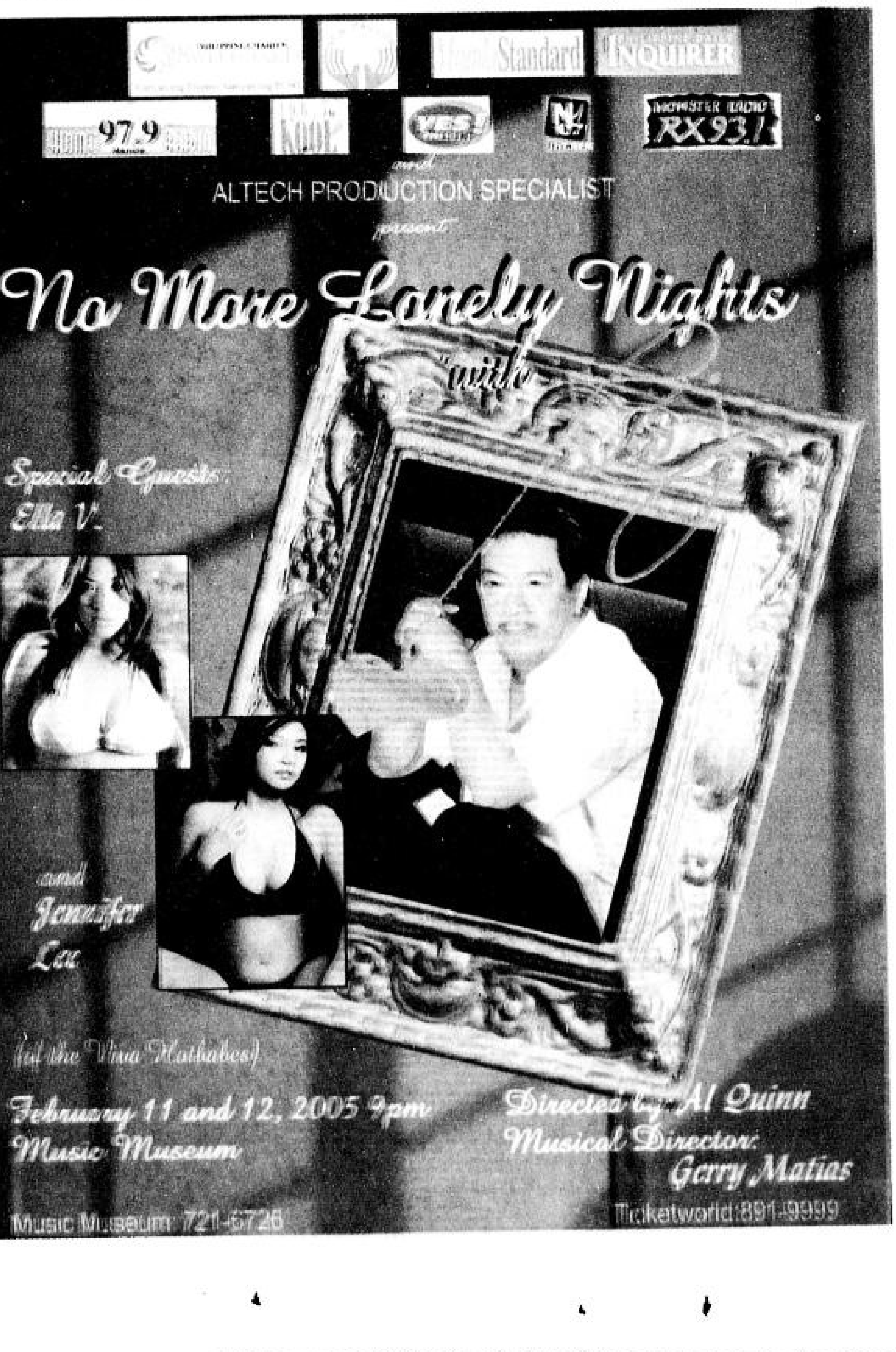
Kuh also cringed at the thought of warbling "victim" songs, or tunes that celebrate suffering, pain and the like. She nevertheless hummed, "I can't live if living is without you," as an example, but soon shrieked, "*Ayoko 'yan! Hindi ko na* feel *'yan*. I've overcome that."

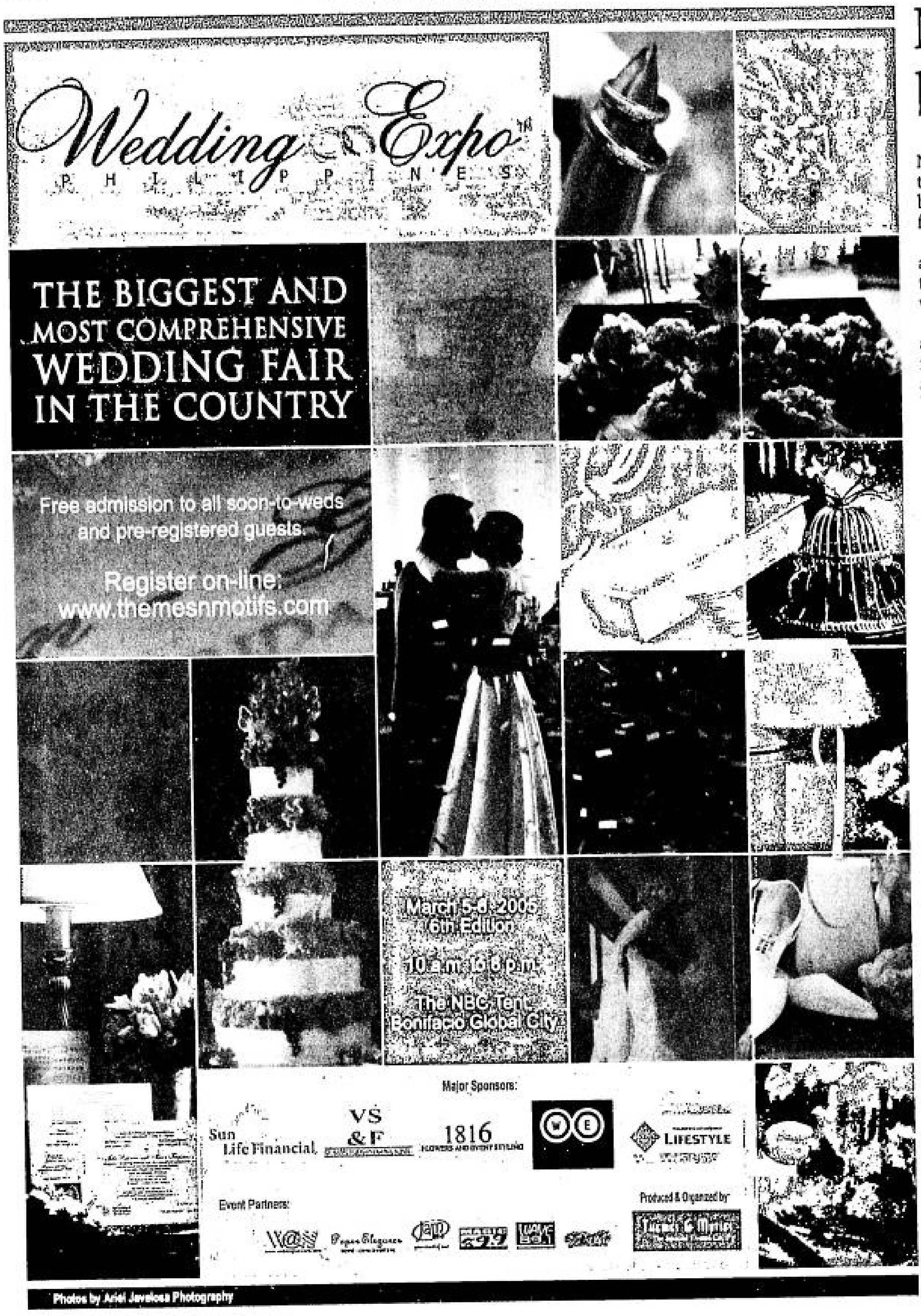
She has also overcome getting in a rut, said Kuh. She remembered that there was a time in her life when she felt like retiring from her work. She felt weary and uninspired. But not anymore. These days, she happily related waking up very excited and motivated.

"Focusing on life keeps me going," she intimated. "If I enjoyed making money before, I like to make more money now. I want to work more because I also want to help more people."

She has a foundation that supports Bible teachers and builds churches in

25 YEARS/2

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Nonoy sings some of the most beautiful songs ever written

NONOY Zuñiga welcomes this year's Valentine season with the release of "The Love Album," a collection of some of the most beautiful songs ever written.

This is Nonoy's first album for Viva Records and Nonoy hopes his fans will be as enthusiastic about it as they were about his previous works.

"We made sure all of the songs will be about love," says the doctor who chose to make a career in music. "It is all about the stages of falling in love and loving and also being heart broken. The songs are also old so I am sure there will be plenty of memories for those who will listen to the album. The whole thing is very romantic and I also tried to be as romantic as I can."

NONOY ZUÑIGA. "The Love Album"

The songs included in "The Love Album" are "What Matters Most," "Too Shy to Say," "Someone Who Cares," "The Way You Look Tonight," "I Wanna Be Free," "If," "I Only Have Eyes for You," "Until It's Time for You To Go," "Moon River," "In My Life," "I'll Be Seeing You," and an enchanting duet of "When I Fall In Love," with Regine Velasquez.

Nonoy started out with the Family Birth Control Band until an unfortunate bombing during the martial law years thrust him into the solo spotlight. His first solo hit was "Ako ay Ikaw Rin," the song that was named theme for the disabled in 1980.

His collaboration with composer and producer Willy Cruz resulted in some of the biggest selling songs of the '80s.

Among these are "Doon Lang," "Kumusta Ka," "Never Ever Say Goodbye," "Init Sa Magdamag" and many others.

Nonoy marks his 25th anniversary as a solo performer this year.

Nonoy will launch "The Love Album" with a special show at Serendipity in Discovery Suites at Ortigas Center later this month.

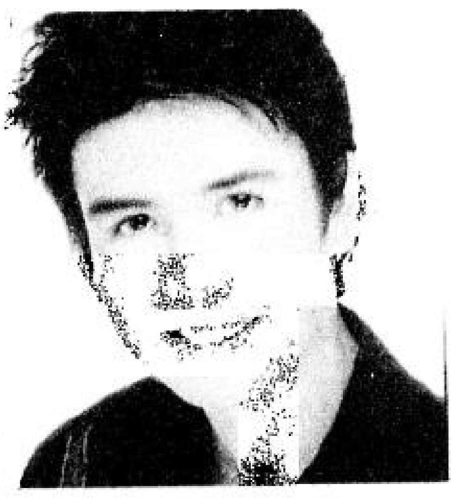
25 years of Kuh Ledesma

From page 1

barangays.

"When you're just starting out," she said, "of course, you want to work to have a house, a car and save up so you'll have money when you get old. Now I'm not that afraid anymore because I believe that there's a God that loves us and will never leave or forsake us. All we have to do is ask. You know, I always say, 'Lord, I've never been busier in my 25 years and I'm willing to work more. Provide work for me. *At nandiyan lagi*."

Last year, Kuh had eight shows in different parts of the country and a concert tour with Nora Aunor in the United States and Australia. She said she enjoyed working the Superstar and never had a problem with her. Prior to that Kuh guest-starred on Nora's defunct soap opera, "Bituin."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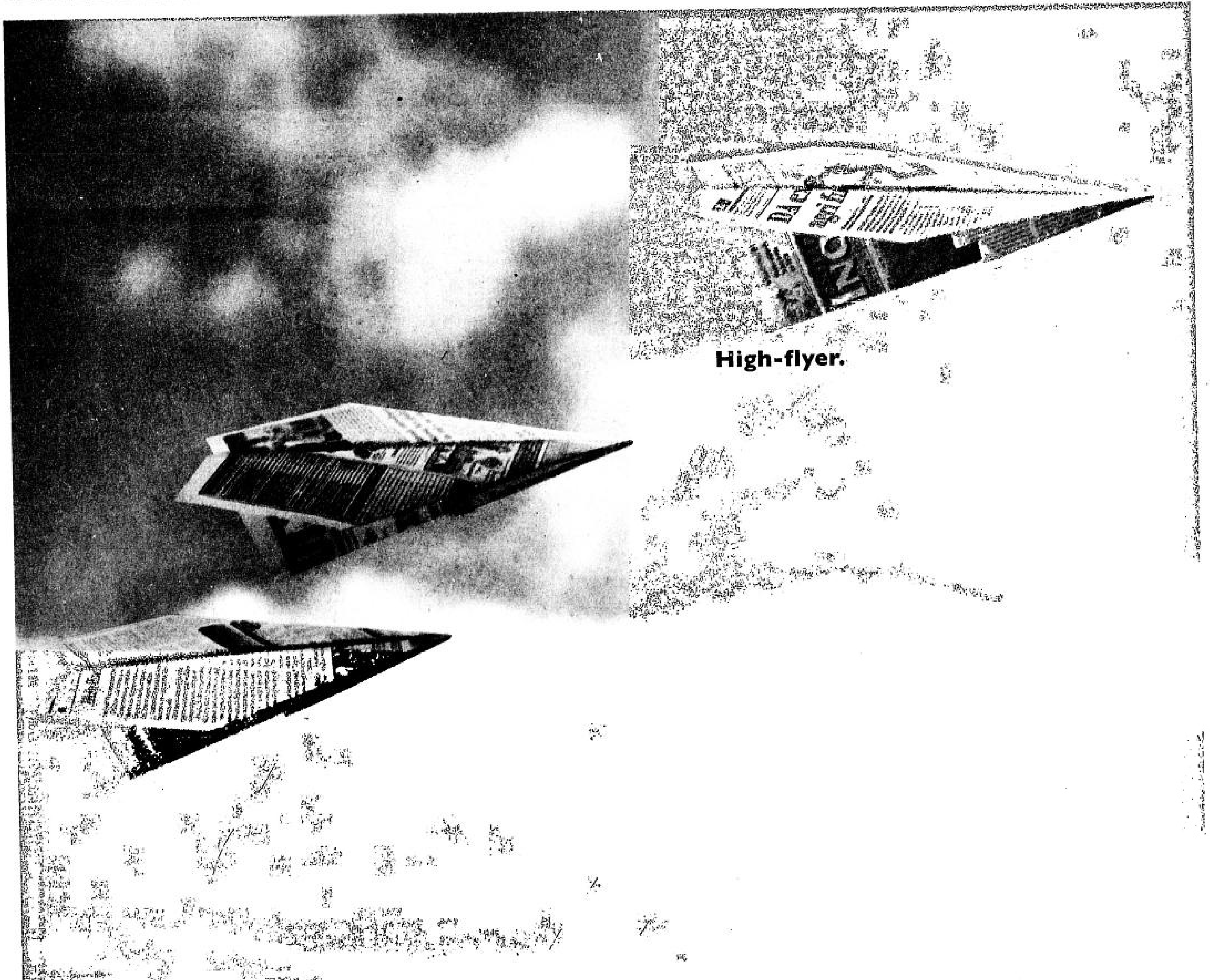
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‘Mr. Nasty’s’ putdowns earned him $85M

From page A4-4

Cowell did not immediately see the allure of talent-show TV, either, turning down the chance to appear on “Popstars,” a British forerunner to “Pop Idol,” because, as he told an audience at the Edinburgh International Television Festival in August, “I did not think we should be showing the manufacturing process of a group on TV.”

He has since changed his mind, but still insists: “I wasn’t particularly interested in being on television. I never really went into this—unlike a lot of people who judge these shows—to be a personality per se.”

A personality, however, is what he has become.

On ‘The Simpsons’

In Britain, Cowell is fodder for the tabloids, who note his penchant for high-waisted trousers and exhort him to marry long-term—and reportedly long-suffering—girlfriend, Terri Seymour.

The Internet is home to a clutch of Cowell fan sites, as well as one that allows you to punch him. He has received one of pop culture’s highest accolades—appearing as himself on an episode of “The Simpsons.”

Cowell signed a three-year deal with “American Idol” in 2003 and has set up his own TV production company. His latest venture is “X Factor,” a star-search show in Britain on which he acts as fellow judge and sparring partner to Sharon Osbourne. (Cowell is being sued by Fuller, who considers the show an “Idol” copycat).

Cowell says he’s reluctant to plan far into the future.

“What I’ve always done in my job is to be reactive,” he said. “When I saw ‘Popstars,’ it was quite obvious there was a better show to be made, which was ‘Pop Idol.’ I was thinking of it then as to what was right for my record label, because all the artists were going to be signed to my label. It was a marketing decision.”

He hopes his celebrity will help drive future TV projects, but says: “I don’t think I’ll be on the shows. I’d rather be in the background.”

Abdul’s music

As for “American Idol” Paula Abdul, she continued to choreograph (including in movies such as the Oscar-winning “American Beauty”); she ran her own dance camps and competitions for youth, and she even wrote songs for others.

“I’m responsible for helping Kylie Minogue come back,” she maintains while talking about the song “Spinning Around,” which she co-wrote for the dance music star in 2000. “She couldn’t get signed to a worldwide deal . . . She entered for the first time ever on the UK charts No. 1 on a song I wrote.

“I just got the bug, like, ‘Oh my God I love music, I want to be involved.’”

Jackson’s band

For three years, the third judge, Randy Jackson, performed with the band Journey, landing gigs with everyone from Tracy Chapman and Bob Dylan to Aretha Franklin, Mariah Carey and Patti LaBelle.

He then moved to the music industry’s executive suites, spending eight years as vice president of artists and repertoire (A&R) at Columbia Records and four years heading A&R at MCA.

Along the way, Jackson recalls a couple of “Idol” moments of his own.

His first big break was at 17, when he played with ’60s icon John Fred. But now he’s trying to make it in a different way: acting.

“I’m just doing a couple of little step-outs,” he says of his stints on NBC’s “American Dreams” and UPN’s “Kevin Hill.” And having successfully lost over 100 pounds since his 2003 gastric bypass surgery, he’s ready for his close-ups.

“I think I might have some of what it takes,” Jackson said. “Acting, now that’s a difficult profession.”

AP

LOVE-HATE. The success of Cowell (far left, with co-judges Abdul and Jackson) is built on a highly telegenic personality, plus a bluntness that has attracted and appalled millions of viewers.

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'Mr. Nasty's' putdowns earned him $85M

'My job is to try and say what I think the audience are thinking at home. It doesn't matter how many people turn up, only two are going to be any good. So why give everybody else false hope, because it's such a tough business'

UNCOWED. Cowell says he's simply being honest.

LONDON—After more than two decades working his way up—behind the scenes—in the music industry, Simon Cowell sits center stage.

Cowell's withering putdowns of the overconfident and undertalented—first on Britain's "Pop Idol," then on "American Idol," which began its fourth season Jan. 18—have made him a celebrity on both sides of the Atlantic.

They have also made him very rich. He's worth a reported $85 million, thanks partly to a deal that lets him sign "Pop Idol" winners to his own record label. ("Idol" creator Simon Fuller handles their management and merchandising).

Being honest

Cowell's success is built on a highly telegenic personality, plus a bluntness that has attracted and appalled millions of viewers and seen him nicknamed "Mr. Nasty" by the press.

"You sang like a ventriloquist's dummy," he told one hapless musical hopeful. To another: "My advice would be if you want to pursue a career in the music business, don't."

Cowell, 45, says he's simply being honest.

"My job is to try and say what I think the audience are thinking at home," Cowell told The Associated Press. "What I've said from day one on 'American Idol' is, it doesn't matter how many people turn up, only two are going to be any good. So why give everybody else false hope, because it's such a tough business."

Cowell should know. He has fought his share of battles in a career that—as Cowell's biography on the "American Idol" website puts it—"shaped what we consider to be modern pop music today."

Populist touch

Born in Brighton on England's south coast, Cowell dropped out of school at 16 and got his first music industry job in the mailroom at EMI. Later he worked as an executive with the BMG label, signing the briefly famous Curiosity Killed the Cat as well as the boy bands Westlife and Five—acts that are little-known in the United States but scored multiple No. 1 singles in Britain and Europe.

Cowell showed a knack for working the kitschy, cartoony end of the pop spectrum, overseeing hit singles for a pair of TV actors called Robson and Jerome and for the Teletubbies.

He says that populist touch has served him well.

"Part of the reason the music business has had problems are the so-called experts not giving the public what they want," Cowell said. "The public doesn't always want perfection. There's something else—it's the Barry Manilow syndrome, the Clay Aiken syndrome."

Cowell has little patience with critics who say "Idol" winners are disposable creations manipulated by svengalis like himself and Fuller. He says the success of Aiken, the geeky 2003 runner-up, from "American Idol," exemplifies the show's unpredictable appeal.

"Clay Aiken has been and probably will be the biggest-selling 'Idol' artist ever—and he didn't fit the mold. He just so happened to be what the public wanted."

Misses

There have been misses as well as hits in Cowell's career.

He famously failed to sign the Spice Girls, and didn't spot the potential in Take That, Britain's biggest boy band of the 1990s.

'MR. NASTY'S'/ A4-3

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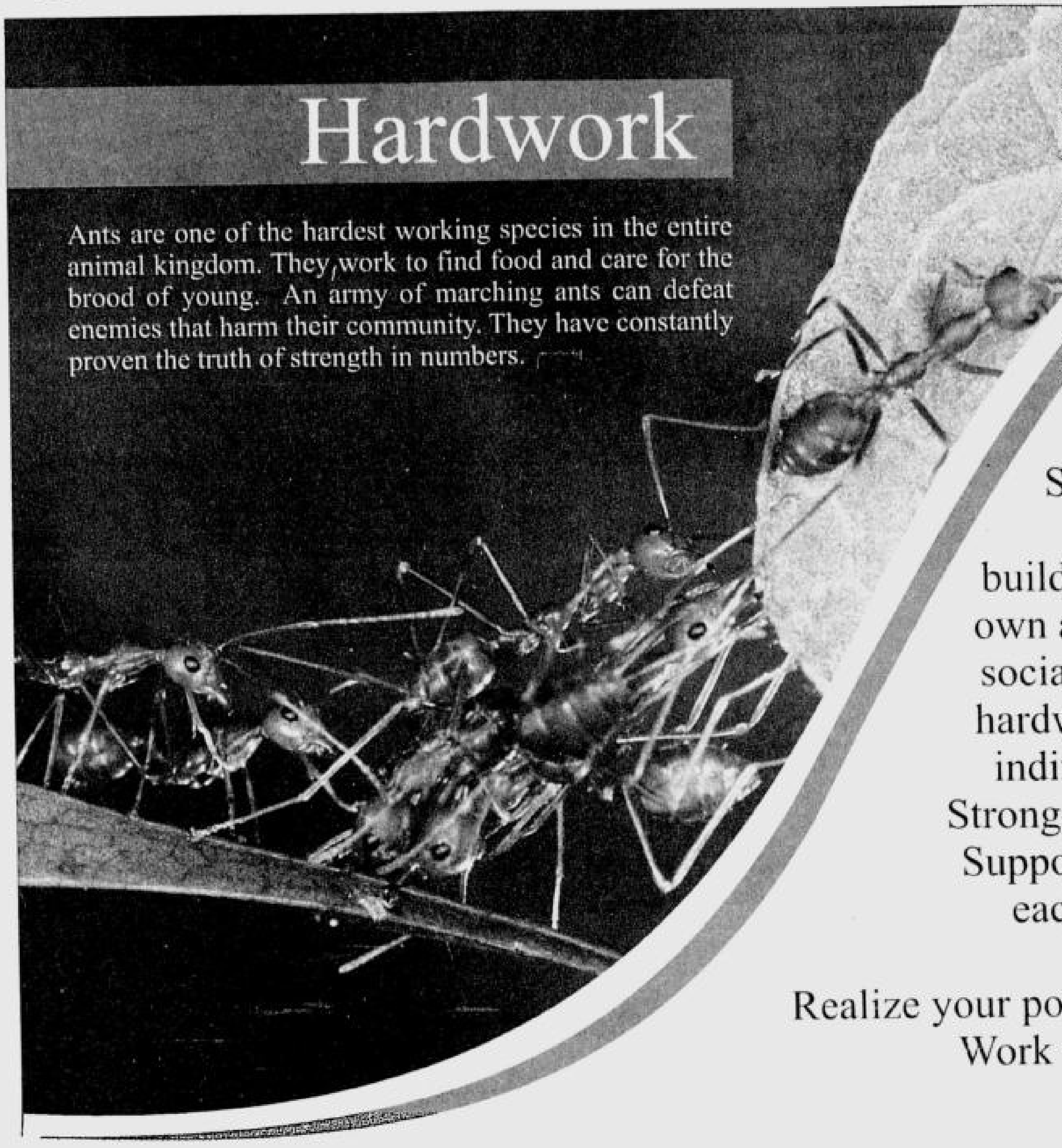

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- Assistant Information Systems Manager
- Assistant Information Technology Manager
- Account Manager/Operations Manager
- English Communications Manager
- Facilities Manager
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- Senior Account Manager
- Senior Operations Manager
- Software Quality Assurance Manager
- Training and Quality Manager

OPERATIONS

- Customer Service Representatives
- Reports Analysts
- Technical Support Representatives
- Technical Support Engineers

SUPPORT GROUP

- Associate Software Engineers
- Administrative Assistant
- Administrative Supervisor
- English Monitoring Specialists
- Front Desk Receptionists
- IT Staff (Helpdesk)
- Nurses
- Purchasing Assistant
- Quality Coordinators
- Recruitment Officer
- Senior Systems Administrator
- Sourcing Officer
- Systems Administrator
- Trainers
- Training Officer (Certifier)
- Workforce Analyst

MAKATI

26/F Robinsons Summit Center
6783 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1226

34/F Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1200

CEBU

KRC Commercial Building 1
National Highway, Subangdaku
Mandaue City, Cebu 6014

For inquiries, please call:
Manila (02) 817-8781
Cebu (032) 348-9898

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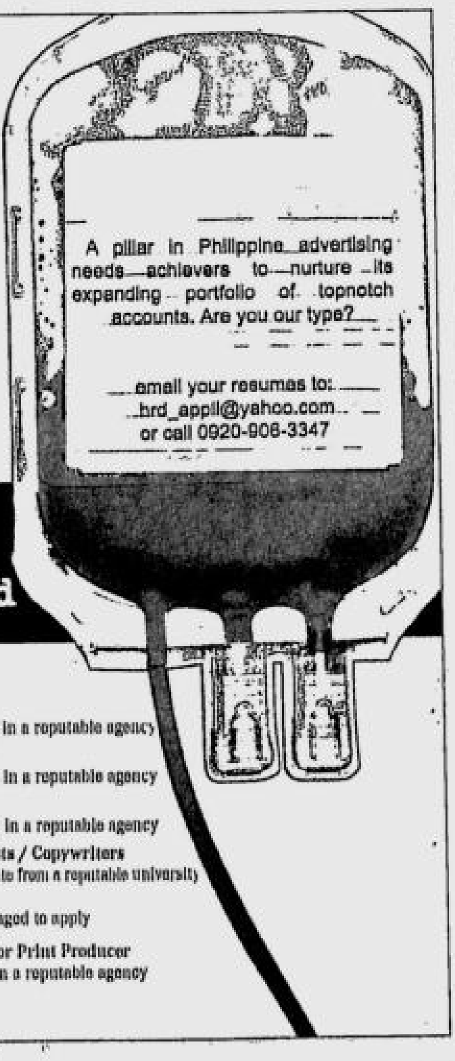

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**Wanted:
New Blood**

Account Directors
At least 6-8 years experience in a reputable agency

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Account Managers
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With or without experience
Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

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DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

Duty Free Philippines
is in need of

CASHIERS

Graduate of any 4-year course
Not over 30 years old
With cashiering experience
Honest and trustworthy
Able to deal with customers effectively
Hardworking & willing to render overtime

REQUIREMENTS

Printed Resume, 1pc. 2X2 picture
Photocopy & Original of NBI Clearance
(less than a year old)
Birth Certificate & Transcript of Records

Applicants may apply personally at:
EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT
Ground Floor, EHA Building
Duty Free Fiestamall
Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City
Applications will be received until Feb. 18, 2005
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- Male / Minimum 2 years experience
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ENGINEERING GRADUATES BATCH 2004

- Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics and Communications, Chemical, and Industrial Engineering graduates (with or without license).
- Should possess leadership qualities, are team-players and hardworking
- Must be willing to work on shifts
- Male or Female, not more than 23 years of age

PLANNING ASSISTANTS

- Graduate of any business, communication, or psychology course
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Good analytical ability
- Pleasing personality
- Proficient in MS office applications
- Female, not more than 24 years of age

HR ASSISTANTS

- Graduate of any business, communication or psychology course
- Will be assigned either in recruitment/background checking, employee relations, benefits administration or general HR
- Pleasing personality and good communication skills
- Willing to work on shifts
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, not more than 24 years of age

OFFICE CLERKS

- Graduate of any 2-year computer or business course or undergraduate with at least 2 years in college
- Preferably with experience in performing clerical functions
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, not more than 22 years of age

MIS ENGINEERS

- Graduate of Computer Engineering, with or without experience
- Must have knowledge on visual basic, programming, basic networking, installation, PC repair and troubleshooting.
- Should possess leadership qualities, are team-players and hardworking
- Must be willing to work on shifts
- Male or Female, not more than 23 years of age

COMPANY NURSE

- Will be responsible for the curative, palliative, preventive, rehabilitative and administrative aspects of employees' health care
- Graduate of BS Nursing, licensed
- Must be service-oriented and willing to work on shifts
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, not more than 27

RECEPTIONIST

- Graduate of any 2 or 4-year course/degree
- Above average communication skills
- Pleasing personality
- Must exude self-confidence
- Should possess initiative, resourcefulness and genuine desire to help others
- Female, not more than 29

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- Graduate of Electromechanical, Electrical or Electronics, Mechanical Technology course
- Without experience or if with experience, 6 months or less
- With knowledge in machine maintenance and troubleshooting
- Male, not more than 24

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GREEN DOVE AWARD ISO 14001 SGS Certificate No US2002/2850

SYSTEM CERTIFICATION OHSAS 18001 SGS

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PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

URGENTLY NEEDED

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1) **Project Managers**
2) **Senior Project Engineers**
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4) **Quantity Surveyors (Estimator)**
5) **Architectural Autocad Operators**
6) **Field Engineers / Architect**

MODULAR PANEL FURNITURE

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You may E-mail your resumé at am_msi@yahoo.com or send your comprehensive resumé to:

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Recruitment Managers
Minimum 1 year experience in a local or overseas recruitment agency in a supervisory capacity; preferably w/ solid background in recruiting I.T. personnel

HR Consultants
At least 22 years old and with 1 year experience in recruitment to deployment of applicants for local or overseas employment; experience in recruiting I.T. professionals is a must

Secretaries/Receptionists
One year minimum experience in providing support to different departments; should be adept in performing various administrative and secretarial functions

Admin Assistants/Teachers
Minimum 1 year teaching experience; familiar in formulation of teaching modules and adept in performing clerical and administrative tasks

Candidates must be at least a graduate of any 4-year course, proficient in using MS Office and the Internet and with above average English communication skills.

4/F MG Bldg., 150 Amorsolo St.
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Tel.# 815-1070/77/20 ext.101
E-mail: hrd@principalia.com
www.principalia.com

VSO

Voluntary Service Overseas sends professional, experienced and qualified international volunteers at the request of non-governmental (NGO), governmental and community organisations in the Philippines.

40 professional volunteers are currently working all over the Philippines in: community-based natural resource management, gender & development, peacebuilding, including informal education particularly with enterprise development.

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Philippines is recruiting a Programme Area Manager (PAM) to implement, supervise, and manage the various components of its peace building work in Northwestern Mindanao. The PAM will be concurrently responsible for the implementation of an EU-funded VSO PEACE Mindanao project.

VSOP's peace building programme revolves around three interrelated and vital components : enhancing understanding and social interaction between Muslims and Christians, building economic resilience among internally displaced peoples and communities, and psycho-social intervention and support to victims of trauma caused by conflict and displacement.

The VSOP peace building PAM will be directly engaged in strengthening the capacity of NGOs, CBOs, and local and national government units in peace building service delivery; in strengthening the accountability of public institutions (executive, legislative, and judicial) and powerful groups such as media, academe, churches, and the corporate sector to the rights of IDPs; and in promoting the welfare and aspirations of IDPs to other development organizations and institutions, both local and international.

Responsibilities of the PAM post include :

1. Implementing the various components of the peace building programme area plan of VSO Philippines, including managing the EU funded PEACE Mindanao peace building project;
2. Managing the human, material, and financial resources of the PEACE Mindanao project;
3. Leading in volunteer administration and support; and,
4. Maintaining and developing the wider VSOP programme

To manage the aforementioned responsibilities the successful candidate should possess the following qualities :

1. A critical and institutional analysis and approach to development issues (previous scholarship on conflict, displaced people and communities, and peace and development issues is an advantage);
2. Demonstrable ability and experience in motivating and managing people;
3. Sensitivity to gender and development issues;
4. A willingness to integrate with poor communities and work with people of various ethnic, religious, political, and occupational backgrounds;
5. Very good writing and presentation skills;
6. Skills in project development, monitoring and evaluation;
7. Strong networking, bargaining, and negotiation skills;
8. Some skills in liaising and dealing with media, and some experience in policy advocacy campaigns;
9. Willingness to work with a team .
10. Strong sense of humor;
11. Knowledge or willingness to learn how to drive a car, and/or motorcycle; and,
12. Knowledge or willingness to learn the local language.

You will be responsible to the Country Director, VSO Philippines, and part of your duties will be to line-manage three other staffpersons. You will be based in Iligan City, Northern Mindanao. Successful applicant must be in post no later than April 15, 2005.

For a full description of the post, please see the VSO webpage: www.geocities.com/vsophilippines.

CVs and resumes will not be accepted as applications to this post. Instead, applicants must answer an electronic VSOP application form available at www.geocities.com/vsophilippines/Peace_building_PAM.html All applicants should also write an explanatory note (no longer than two paragraphs totaling 6-8 sentences) for each of the 12 qualities earlier identified, explaining why you believe you possess the qualities required for this post. Failure to send explanatory notes will disqualify the applicant.

Please send your completed application form and explanatory note to : vsophilippines@yahoo.com

Deadline for submission : 16.00 hrs, FEBRUARY 21, 2005
Interview Date : March 9, 2005

Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

NIKKOSHI PHILS. CORP.

SENIOR PRODUCT ENGINEER

- Engineering Graduate
- At least 26-35 years old.
- Experienced and knowledgeable in precision machining processes.
- Able to read engineering drawings/designs.
- Programming knowledge in CNC machining centers, lathe machines.
- Know how to operate (CMM) Coordinate Measuring Machine.
- Knowledgeable in electronics, mechanical concepts and analysis, manufacturing procedures, product and process engineering tools.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Excellent Communication Skills -- written and oral.
- Able to communicate in Japanese Language will be an advantage.
- With at least five (5) years related experience in a manufacturing company.
- Can work under pressure.
- Strong leadership skills, competent and team worker.

SENIOR QUALITY ASSURANCE ENGINEER

- Engineering Graduate
- At least 30-35 years old.
- With ample experience on ISO Accreditation.
- Can handle Supplier/Customer management related activities.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Know how to operate (CMM) Coordinate Measuring Machine.
- Knowledge in (SPC) Statistical Process Control, (FMEA) Failure Mode and Effect Analysis, and other related principles and concepts.
- Excellent Communication Skills – written and oral.
- Able to communicate in Japanese Language will be an advantage.
- With at least five (5) years of Quality Control supervisory or related experience in a manufacturing company.
- Goal-driven, dependable and loyal.

Qualified applicants may apply personally together with their comprehensive Curriculum Vitae (CV), a recent two colored 2x2 ID picture and other credentials to:

HRD Department
Nikkoshi Philippines Corporation
First Philippine Industrial Park (FPIP)
Brgy. Sta. Anastacia, Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Or e-mail resume in TEXT form (**Strictly no attachments**), with the applied position stated in the subject line to:

hrd@nikkoshi.com.ph

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☐ Must be a bachelor degree holder (undergrads are also welcome to apply)
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Pioneer ave. corner Madison St. Boni Avenue Mandaluyong City

Or E-mail us at: gcic_human@yahoo.com

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Programmers

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Position: Software Developer for the .Net platform

Required Qualifications:

- Experience using and operating on Windows Server platforms
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- MS SQL Server or equivalent
- HTML/XML

Position: Software Developer for the Linux platform

Required Qualifications:

- Sound understanding of Linux and networking
- Programming and administration in a Linux/Unix environment
- Experience using one or more of the following: Python, Java, C/C++
- Experience using MySQL and/or PostgreSQL or equivalent
- In-depth technical knowledge of the current hardware, operating systems (UNIX systems) and SDT (including CVS and editors)
- BASH shell scripting
- HTML/XML

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- organizational skills a must
- 4-year college course

Marketing Assistant

- 30 years and below
- 4-year college degree
- Proficient in English
- Personable
- Computer literate

PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON
Salon Systems Management Inc.
Ground Floor, CSJ Bldg., 105 Aguirre St.,
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Phone: 8124864 / 8130459
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2:30 - 4:30 p.m. only

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Male or Female, Graduate of any course, 28-35 years old, At least 2 years experience in any service oriented company. Interest in the field of bowling and billiard is an advantage.

CASHIERS/SERVICE CREW

Male or Female, 20-28 years old, at least 5'2 in height, With pleasing personality. At least 2nd year college; With experience in any food chain is a must.

LANEMAN MECHANIC

Male, 30-35 years old, with electrical background and computer repair. With good moral character.
Send your resume at:

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26 Tagupo St. corner Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
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www.playdiumbowling.com

Looking for a job can be trouble-free if you can troubleshoot.

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- Courteous with strong customer service orientation
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- Participate in activities designed to improve customer satisfaction and business performance
- Occasionally use decision-support tools to answer questions
- Solve problems that are sometimes unstructured and that may require reliance on conceptual thinking
- Offer solutions to issue that are often non-standard/non-routine and require some clarifications
- Maintain broad knowledge of client products and services

Commonwealth Office: Rm. 410, Verde Oro Building Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City **Alabang Office:** Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone, Muntinlupa City **Ortigas Office:** 24th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, Ortigas Center **Makati Office:** 8th Floor, Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue **Cebu Office:** R. Arcenas Street, Arcenas Estates, Banawa Hills, Cebu City

Previous applicants may re-apply 6 months after initial application.

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FUJITSU

FUJITSU COMPUTER PRODUCTS CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

The successful candidate will be responsible for two or three functions involving either recruitment, training, employee relations, salary and benefits administration, payroll and documentation. She should be a college graduate. Between 28 and 38, she must have at least 5 years relevant experience as Human Resources Manager in a labor-intensive medium to large-sized corporation. Candidates should have familiarity with labor laws and regulations, and should display professionalism, resourcefulness, initiative, fairness and stick-to-itiveness. The hired candidate will report directly to the Vice President, HR and General Affairs.

SECURITY MANAGER

The successful candidate will be responsible for security of the plant including liaison with external parties, intelligence units and government agencies, investigation, supervision of buildings in-charge and security personnel, and other security functions. He should be a college graduate. Between 30 and 40, he must have at least 5 years relevant experience as Security Manager in a labor-intensive medium to large-sized corporation. Candidates should have both business orientation and security management capability. The hired candidate will report directly to the Vice President, HR and General Affairs.

MIS ASSISTANT MANAGER OR SUPERVISOR

The successful candidate will be responsible for data system operations, solutions and improvements, coordinating with vendors regarding equipment and purchase. He should be able to provide training needs, evaluate staff performance and recommend hiring, termination and promotion. He must be an engineering graduate between 25 and 35 years old. He must have at least 3 years relevant experience as a data management information system assistant manager/supervisor in a labor-intensive medium to large-sized corporation.

Certificate No. Q5372

Fujitsu Computer Products is a leading manufacturer of hard disk drives and magneto-resistive heads. After almost nine years of commercial operations, we now have 6,200 employees. We were inducted into PEZA's Top Employer Hall of Fame by being the Top Employer for the years 1997 to 1999. To know more about the company, you can visit us at www.ph.fujitsu.com/fcpp. Successful candidates will be based in Canlubang, Laguna. Shuttle buses to and from the site are available for Metro Manila residents. Please send your resumes to: The Vice President, HR & General Affairs Department, Fujitsu Computer Products Corporation of the Philippines, SEPZ, Carmelray Industrial Park, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna, or email to: recruit@fcpp.fujitsu.com or you may also apply personally in business attire, Mondays to Fridays at 9 AM.

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

WANTED SALES ENGINEERS

(Male/Female)

Must have good sales experience in selling any of the ff. products:

1) mechanical packings, seals & gaskets
2) o-rings, oil seals, circlips
3) lubricants, chemicals and eng'g plastics
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To the successful applicants, we offer good compensation package.

Apply personally with complete resumé & photo to:

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Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
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E-mail: relcor@skyinet.net

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Minimum Qualifications:

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- ☐ Female; At least 5'2" in height
- ☐ Age- 22-30 years old ; Enthusiastic and with pleasing personality
- ☐ Fluency and proficiency in English language is a must.
- ☐ With at least one (1) year experience in similar position or two (2) years experience in travel agency, call center handling air travel and other related industry are also encouraged to apply.

Terms and conditions of employment to be discussed during interview. Please apply in person with pertinent credentials (i.e. detailed resume, passport copy, school records, employment / training certificates and 2-pcs 2X2 ID photos)

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3/F Rm. 301-302 Eastgate Centre Building
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Our vision is to provide total entertainment through audio and visual content in the audiences' homes worldwide.

We are presently in need of candidates for the following positions:

Inventory Analysts
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Merchandising Officer
Accountants (CPA)
Property Custodian
Radio Marketing Officer
Talent Handlers
Researchers

Applicants must be college graduates and must have at least 2 years of experience in their corresponding field.

Interested candidates may drop their resumé at the designated box at the Audience Entrance of ABS-CBN, Eugenio Lopez Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or send to

Star Records, HR Department, 3rd Floor,
ABS-CBN Broadcast Centre,
Sgt. Esguerra Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
E-mail : Rhonalyn_Laylo@abs.pinoycentral.com
Catherine_Marcelo@abs.pinoycentral.com

Only qualified applicants will be notified thru a phone call. Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Pasig
Pasig City

PASIG CITY SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL

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	POSITION TITLE	REQUIREMENTS
(1)	Secondary School Principal I (major in Science or Mathematics)	Bachelors Degree in Arts and Sciences with Masters degree and preferably with Doctoral units. Doctoral degree an advantage. Minimum 5 years of supervisory experience PBET; RA 1080 passer
(2)	Secondary School Head Teachers II (in all subject areas)	Bachelors Degree in Arts and Sciences with Masters degree. Minimum 3 years of supervisory experience PBET; RA 1080 passer
(3)	Secondary School Special Science Teachers I (in all subject areas)	Bachelors Degree in Arts and Sciences preferably with Masteral units Minimum 2 years of teaching experience PBET or LET; RA 1080 passer

Please apply at the Office of the City Mayor, Education Unit, Pasig City

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Recruitment & Gen. Services

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TELEFAX CEBU: 032-2568279
POEA LICENSE NO.: 558-LB-112902-R
ACCREDITATION NO.: 72775

URGENT JOB ORDER FOR POPEYE'S (K.S.A.)

ASSISTANT COOK - Male, 21-25 years old, speak English, must work from POPEYE's, KFC, or any FASTFOOD. Must have exp. in kitchen or all around.

CASHIER - Male, 21-25 years old experience Working as Cashier in any FASTFOOD.

MASTER SEAFOOD COOK - (Male) not less than 35 years old, minimum of 5 years experience

URGENT NEED FOR RAYMOND CO. (K.S.A.)

CIVIL ESTIMATOR - (CE, ME) 10 years of exp. in earthworks, dewatering, FRP pipeline and industrial project.

QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER - (CE, ME) 15 years of exp. in Petrochemicals plant construction projects. Welding & erection of piping works.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER/INSTRUMENTATION - (ME, CE) 10 years of exp. on Petrochemicals plant projects. INFRASTRUCTURE, Industrial Projects.

PLANNING ENGINEER - (ME, CE) 15 years of exp. in Petrochemicals projects, Water distribution system, covering, Installation, welding erection of piping works

QUANTITY SURVEYOR - 10 years of exp. in earthworks, dewatering, concrete works, water distribution piping, and structural steel.

URGENT JOB ORDER FOR JALOULI DRESSMAKER SHOP (AL KHAMIS)

DRESSMAKER (cut & sew) - (Female) 1st timer or x-abroad, not less than 5 years of experience as Dressmaker cut & sew.

URGENT JOB ORDER FOR

REQUIREMENTS: Resumé with job description, employment cert. with 2x2 picture. Interested applicants report in our office for personal interview.

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A Global Leader in Information and Communications Technology is recruiting for its expansion program IT Professionals and Administrative staff who are *innovative, creative, hard working* and *team players.*

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- System Analysts
- System / Network Administrator
- Database Administrator
- Web Programmers (ASP, ASP.net, JAVA)
- Web Developers
- Computer Engr. / Technicians
- Art Director (with Graphic Studio or Agency experience)
- Graphic Designers
- Copy Writers
- Computer Secretaries
- Receptionists
- IT / Computer Trainers

Qualifications:

- *Degree in Information Technology or any computer studies, or any course relevant to the position applied for.*
- *Fulltime and can work overtime.*
- *Masters degree is a plus for managerial position.*

Submit your resume at:

1st IT CENTER
7373 Bakawan Street, San Antonio Village
Makati City, Philippines 1200
Tel nos. : (632) 893 - 9994, 893 - 7844
email : jps@go2ph.net

MSH LEAD

The Local Enhancement and Development (LEAD) for Health Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), aims to strengthen local government provision and management of family planning (FP) and selected health services (Vitamin A/MCH, TB, and HIV/AIDS), and to improve the policies and financing for these services. The Project will seek to improve the capacity of local government units (LGUs), particularly in cities and municipalities, to meet the needs of their constituents, especially the poor, for FP, TB, MCH, and HIV/AIDS.

The LEAD for Health Project is a three-year contract between USAID and MSH that ends on September 30, 2006. There are two 2-year optional extension periods.

MSH is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill in the position of:

CHIEF OF PARTY

Duty Station is Manila, Philippines.

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES: The Chief of Party (COP) supervises all activities under the contract and has overall responsibility for the successful performance of the technical assistance team. The COP provides strategic leadership and bears primary administrative responsibility for all administrative requirements to fulfill the performance objectives specified in this contract. The COP is the official representative of the contractor and maintains communication between all relevant parties, including appropriate officials from DOH, the Philippine Health Insurance Company, and the USAID Chief of the Office of Population, Health, and Nutrition, the Cognizant Technical Officer, and DOH Project Manager assigned to this contract.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide overall direction of all technical and administrative operations.
2. Function as the primary liaison between the USAID, DOH, and other collaborating agencies on all administrative and financial matters.
3. Know, understand, supervise, and support the work of the Directors of the various units with particular emphasis on their key tasks and project deliverables.
4. Together with the MSH/Cambridge Project Support Leader, maintain good working relationships with all partners and subcontractors to assure that the project receives the full benefit from their specific areas of expertise.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Minimum of a master's level education/ training or its equivalent in Health Economics, Public Health, Public or Business Administration, or a related field.
2. Demonstrated success as the COP of a comparable multi-dimensional USAID project, managing professional and financial resources on a similar scale preferred. Direct senior staff supervision experience required.
3. At least 10 years successful prior experience working with national and local governments on the development and/or implementation of health programs in the developing world preferred.
4. Successful prior experience in policy and advocacy projects in a developing country, preferably with experience working in the Philippines.
5. Familiarity with and understanding of USAID administrative procedures.
6. Proven ability to manage experienced staff with differing opinions and harmonize their efforts.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their application letter, with a comprehensive resume showing details of their work experience, academic background, and references not later than February 16, 2005 through any of the following:

Mail Suite 1101 Ma. Natividad Building
470 T. M. Kalaw Avenue corner Cortada Street
Ermita, Manila

Fax (632) 521-0950

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- KNOWLEDGEABLE AND HAS THOROUGH EXPERIENCE IN TRAVEL AGENCY OPERATIONS, RESERVATIONS, TICKETING (MANUAL AND AUTOMATED) AND TARIFFS
- POSSESSES LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT/SUPERVISORY, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS
- SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WOULD BE WELL-COMPENSATED

TICKETING AGENTS / RESERVATIONS CLERK

- MALE OR FEMALE
- COLLEGE GRADUATE
- WITH OR WITHOUT EXPERIENCE BUT WILLING TO BE TRAINED AND FOLLOW A TRAVEL-ORIENTED CAREER
- FAMILIAR WITH AIRLINE RESERVATIONS AND TICKETING IS AN ADVANTAGE
- LIKEWISE, KNOWLEDGE IN AIRLINE TARIFFS AND PRINTED REFERENCES WOULD BE AN ADVANTAGE

TRAVEL CONSULTANTS

- MALE OR FEMALE
- WITH 1 OR MORE YEARS EXPERIENCE AS TICKETING AGENTS/RESERVATIONS CLERKS
- KNOWLEDGEABLE IN AIRLINE TARIFFS AND PRINTED TRAVEL REFERENCES
- HAS LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- MALE OR FEMALE
- COLLEGE GRADUATE
- WILLING TO DO FIELDWORK
- WITH OR WITHOUT EXPERIENCE BUT WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW A SALES CAREER IN TRAVEL
- POSSESSES VERBAL COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC-CONTACT SKILLS
- LIKEABLE, HONEST, HARDWORKING AS THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES BE WELL-COMPENSATED

BOOKKEEPERS/ACCOUNTANTS/AUDITORS

- ACCOUNTING GRADUATES
- CPAs OR NON-CPAs ACCEPTED
- WELL-VERSED IN BASIC ACCOUNTING AND IN EXCEL AND WORD
- HARDWORKING, WILLING TO DO FIELDWORK OF BRANCHES/AGENTS AND WILLING TO DO OVERTIME
- WITH OR WITHOUT EXPERIENCE
- WILLING TO BE TRAINED IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE ORGANIZATION
- TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL AND WELL-DISCIPLINED IN ORDER TO ASSUME HIGHER POSITIONS

INTERESTED? IF YOU ARE, THEN SEND US YOUR LETTER OF INTRODUCTION, BIODATA, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS, 2 PCS OF 2X2 PICTURES TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS ON OR BEFORE 8 FEBRUARY 2005:
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An Asset Management Company is looking for the following:

LEGAL OFFICER

- Licensed lawyer
- Not more than 40 years old
- Minimum five years experience in commercial law, inlcuding litigation
- Exposure in real estate and banking

JUNIOR ACCOUNT OFFICER

- Female
- Not more than 26 years old
- Minimum two years experience in Accounts Management or Remedial Dept. of a financial institution
- Knowledge in Accounting and financial analysis
- Proficient in Windows-based software

ACCOUNT ASSISTANT

- Female
- Not more than 24 years old
- Minimum two years experience in the banking or finance industry
- Proficient in Windows-based software

Resumés with recent photo should be addressed to the Chief Asset Manager, 20th Flr. GT Tower Int'l, Ayala Ave. corner H.V. Dela Costa St., Makati City or sent thru email to amc_phils@yahoo.com.

An export garment manufacturing company of established brand names

NEEDS THE FOLLOWING

HRD MANAGER

- M/F, graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related course. Masteral degree a definite advantage
- With at least 5 yrs. managerial experience in HR functions such as recruitment, benefits and compensation and with extensive knowledge in labor and employee relations.
- Highly organized, result-oriented, computer literate and possesses excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Preferably has experience working in garments manufacturing setup

QA/QC MANAGER

- M/F, graduate of any Engineering course
- With at least 5 yrs. managerial experience in the field of Quality Assurance and Quality Control system/activities, well versed in quality conformance and preventive/corrective action preferably in garment manufacturing setup
- Effective communication skills, both in oral and written

PRODUCTION MANAGER

- M/F, preferably graduate of Industrial Eng'g or related course
- With at least 10-15 yrs. production management experience gained in garment firm
- Technically adept in cut and sew operation with solid experience in all phases of garment operation especially in wovens
- Strong leadership skills, strategic thinker and highly analytical
- High tolerance for stress and can work long hours
- Effective communication skills, both in oral and written

ASST. PRODUCTION MGR.

- M/F, preferably graduate of Industrial Eng'g or related course
- With at least 5-10 yrs. production management experience gained in garment firm
- Technically adept in cut and sew operation with solid experience in all phases of garment operation especially in wovens
- Good team player, strategic thinker and highly analytical
- High tolerance for stress and can work long hours
- Effective communication skills, both in oral and written

MERCHANDISING MGR.

- Female, preferably graduate of Fashion Design or related course.
- At least 10 years experience handling said position
- Knowledge in sourcing and product development, costing, consumption
- Proactive and result oriented
- Computer literate and effective oral/written communication skills
- Hardworking and can work under pressure

MERCHANDISER

- Female, preferably graduate of Fashion Design or related course.
- At least 3 years experience gained in garment firm
- Knowledge in sourcing and product development, costing, consumption
- Computer literate and effective oral/written communication skills
- Hardworking and can work under pressure

PATTERN MAKER

- At least 5 years experience as pattern maker in garment firm
- Technically adept of Lectra system
- Preferably knows how to understand technical specifications
- Knowledge in product development, shrinkage, grading, etc.
- Hardworking and can work under pressure

SAMPLE MAKER

- At least 5 years experience as sample maker
- Preferably knows how to understand technical specifications
- Technically adept in cut and sew operation with solid experience in all phases of garment operation
- Can construct sample pants, jackets, etc.
- Hardworking and can work under pressure

Interested applicants may send their resume with recent photo and credentials to:

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NII Compound, Poblacion, Noveleta, Cavite 4105
c/o Lei Andavias
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Fax # (046) 438-2188; (02) 529-8996
Email: hrd_artif@artif.com.ph

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- At least 18 years old and a high school graduate
- Able to communicate well
- Knowledgeable about the internet
- Must have no criminal record

THE WEAPONS

- Training programs every Wednesday (Rm. 609) and Friday (Rm 610) at 8am-12pm at the PLDT Ramon Cojuangco Bldg. Makati Avenue, Makati City
- Selling materials like brochures/flyers

THE REQUIREMENTS

- Your resumé
- Colored I.D. photo
- No fees will be collected

THE CONTACTS

- Maita Plaza at 8168168
- Gina Munsayac at 8168507

PLDT

Rapu Rapu Minerals will operate a gold/copper/silver/zinc mine on the island of Rapu Rapu via Legaspi in Albay Province.

This exciting new project is seeking persons experienced in all facets of mining geology and a senior position is available as follows.

Rapu-Rapu Minerals, Inc.

Senior Mine Geologist

Reporting to the Geology Manager, you will be responsible for the daily grade control functions within the open cut mine, your key duties will include:

- Supervising grade control sampling and analysis, blast hole logging, blast blocking and pit mapping
- Completing monthly tonnage and grade reconciliations, and ensuring deficiencies in the mine model are identified as a result of the reconciliation process
- Ensuring the most up-to-date geological information is included in short-term mine plans, and
- Driving continuous improvement projects

Your team work skills will be applied to liaising closely with short-term planning, drill and blast, production and metallurgical personnel.

You must be suitably qualified and have substantial experience as a mine geologist in open pit environments, proficiency with mine computer packages is essential. Preferred candidates will be subject to pre-employment checks. You must be committed to health and safety, have excellent communication, supervisory and coaching skills, and have proven ability to operate in a dynamic work place.

Please send your application to:

The Manager – Geology
Rapu Rapu Minerals, Inc
P.O. Box 6
Legaspi City, Albay

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Please call to confirm attendance.
Tel. 7501370 local 710 & 616,
ask for Bless or Abie.
KKC,Inc. 7/F M.E.C. Bldg., Leviste cor. Rufino Sts.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
National Commission for Culture & the Arts
633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila

LIST OF VACANT PLANTILLA POSITIONS:

ACCOUNTANT III

SG 18 - CONTRACTUAL
Bachelor's degree in Accounting
Experience Requirement: 2 yrs. relevant exp.
Training Requirement: 8 hrs. relevant training
RA 1080 (CPA)

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER II

SG 15 - (1) PERMANENT (1) CASUAL
Bachelor's degree relevant to the job (preferably Phil. Studies, Anthropology or other related field)
Experience Requirement: 1 yr. relevant exp.
Training Requirement: 4 hrs. relevant training
Career Service Professional

Requirements: Application Letter; Comprehensive Resumé; Certificate of Civil Service Eligibility; Transcript of Records; Certificate of Trainings; Certificate of Previous Employment; NBI Clearance.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE & THE ARTS
633 GEN LUNA ST., INTRAMUROS, MANILA

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IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES ENGINEER

- Mech. Engineering Graduate
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- With drafting skills
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We offer a very attractive compensation scheme base on qualifications

Please send your resumé & picture to:

HRD Department
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Tel. No. 561-2078 / 562-2703

DENTISTREE *is in need of*

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

1 – Makati and Mandaluyong
1 – Quezon City
1 – San Juan and Pasig
1 – Cebu and Mandaue (preferably residing in Cebu)

1 – SALES SUPERVISOR

Submit applications and resume to:

DENTISTREE
Rm 201 Phil. College of Surgeons Bldg.
992 EDSA, Quezon City
(near SM City Annex)
Tel. No. 9264526 / 4560590

MICROCADD TECHNOLOGIES

8/F Doña Consolacion Bldg., 602 Gen. Santos Ave. Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City / Tel. No. 911-6650

- -STAAD Instructors
- -CAD Instructors

(Full time / Part - time send resume)

- -Accounting Supervisor
- -HR Assistant
- -Marketing Staffs
- -CAD Operators
- -Computer Techs.

(Interview will be on Feb 01, Tuesday 1 - 3pm)

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E-mail: standardphilippines@yahoo.com

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TATA Consulting Services PTE. Ltd. needs:

Must be willing to be assigned in the US, Australia, Japan, Taiwan & China

Japanese or Mandarin Speaking IT professionals
- Should have exposure in any of the following: SAP, Java, Oracle Financial, JD Edwards

Data Warehousing – ETL Consultants
-Should have at least 2 years experience in Informatica preferably in a banking environment with at least 5 yrs total IT experience; with exposure to other DW ETL tools are welcome to apply i.e. Cognus, etc.

SAP Consultants & Implementors - All Modules (SD,MM,BW,etc.)
Java Programmers
Unix Systems Administrators
IT Auditors
Network Security Administrators

Total Swimming PTE Ltd. (Swimming School for expatriates) needs:

Swimming Instructors
- Preferably female; should hold the appropriate certification in swimming instruction; physically fit with excellent communications skills; able to provide instructions on the fundamentals of swimming from basic, advanced and competition level

Madel France PTE Ltd. needs:

Outlet Managers
-With at least 5 years experience in the same capacity preferably from slimming companies
Sales Consultants
-Female with extensive sales experience; Sales driven presentable and with excellent communications and selling skills
Therapists
-Should preferably come from slimming companies, specialized in massage

International School Singapore needs:

Customer Service Staff
-Should have worked in a customer service environment; with solid sales experience; 24-28 yrs old; preferably single; able to provide guidance to students in terms of career path; with good communication skills

Health Asia Pacific Ltd. needs:

Pathologists
-Should be a licensed M.D. specializing in pathology to be assigned in the medical/diagnostic laboratory
Medical Doctors (Cosmetic/Dermatology)
- Female, with sales experience and prepared to travel; attractive and with excellent comm skills
Medical Doctors (For the HMO)
-Should have worked for an HMO; with experience doing post audit on treatments conducted by clinics
Pharmacists
-Should have medical sales background with proven track record in sales; can drive; w/ excellent English comm. skills; can edit medical journals
Governess
- High school teacher in Math and Science; with experience tutoring 10, 14, 15 yr olds; trustworthy and dependable; driving knowledge is a plus; salary open for negotiation

Happy House (Dealer of Hallmark, Friends Forever, Hello Kitty) needs:

Retail Managers
- Should come from the same industry with at least 3 years experience in the same capacity
Shop Managers
- Female with a university degree; with at least 3 yrs experience in the same capacity; has supervised at least 2 counter sales staff; should have excellent customer service skills
Counter Sales Personnel
- Female; should have excellent communications skills and a pleasing personality; w/ experience doing counter sales for fast moving consumer goods

S.I. & Co. (CPA's) needs:

Auditors
-Should be CPA's, chartered accountants; with at least 3-5 years experience working in an auditing environment; preferably working for top auditing firms; with excellent communication skills

Chartered Semicon needs:

Process – Sr. Associate Engineers
- With diploma/ITC in Electronics, Mechatronics or Mechaelectronics Engineering; good team player; willing to perform 12-hour rotating shifts
Equipment – Sr. Associate Engineers
- With at least 1 year relevant working; exp in electrical/electronics industry; willing to perform 12-hour rotating shifts; good team player

Applicants may apply personally or send the following documents filed in a long white folder: resume with full detailed job description, 3 pcs 2x2 picture & photocopy of passport, certificates/license; encoded resume in 3½ floppy diskette in Word format. For proper handling, please indicate the reference no. in your application.

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Prince David Condominium
305 Katipunan Avenue, Q.C.
Tel 435-6062 ◆ 920-2671

Makati
101 Esteban cor Dela Rosa,
Legaspi Village
Tel 815-1307 ◆ 893-3326

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SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- Male / Female 25-32 years old
- At least 2 years experience selling to supermarkets
- Highly initiative and can work effectively with minimal supervision
- Good communication skills and computer literate
- Results-oriented and can work well with peers.
- Applicants for Cebu base also accepted

MARKETING STAFF

- Female, 23-32 years old
- With experience in marketing-related position (trade marketing background an advantage).
- Knowledgeable in planning and implementation of projects
- Good oral and written communication skills. Computer literate

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Female, 21-25 years old
- BSBA graduate
- Computer literate
- Organized and can easily follow instructions
- Fookien-speaking an advantage
- With or without experience

CONTACT: 8123601 TO 03
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We are inviting all qualified graduates who are well-motivated, dedicated individuals and who enjoy working with children in the Elementary and Secondary levels for our expansion program.

GRADE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

- Preferably BSEED or BSE graduate or any related course
- From a reputable school with good scholastic performance
- Preferably LET Passer and/or with M.A. units
- With excellent communication and human relation skills
- Specialization in any of the following subjects: Filipino, Computer, Music, CLE/Religion, Math, English, History, Science, Language, Literature, Panitikan

We offer the following benefits:

- Experience in-house training, teaching and professional advancement opportunities in a very supportive, well-established and professional work environment with low student-teacher ratio
- Excellent salary scale
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Interested applicants may send the following:
* Letter of Intent * Resumé with 2x2 recent colored photo
* Transcript of Records * 3 current Professional References

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RG Seven Media Services

We are looking for young dynamic and result oriented **PROJECT MANAGER ASSISTANT** to Join our team in **EVENTS MANAGEMENT**

- Graduate of any business, communication course.
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- Computer literate.
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Competitive compensation package and excellent career opportunities and growth within the organization awaits the successful candidate.

Interested applicants may apply personally or send their resumé with latest 2x2 photo to this address not later than February 7, 2005.

RG SEVEN MEDIA

RG Seven Media Services
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E-Mail: RG_SEVEN7@yahoo.com
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jay c. designs

Is in need of the following:

CREATIVE ARTIST

Candidate must be able to conceptualize product designs for novelties, trophies and other acrylic products; M/F; College Graduate; Must know Coreldraw & Photoshop; Can work with minimum supervision

SALES COORDINATOR

M/F; 21 years above; College Graduate and preferably with work experience; Computer literate; With good oral and written communication skills

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

M/F; B.S. Industrial Engineering Graduate; Preferably with 1 year experience in the manufacturing industry

Please submit resume with recent picture to:
142 Road 3, Pagasa, Q.C. Tel. No. 927-1776; 5/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall
Tel. No. 635-629; LGF, SM City North EDSA Tel. No. 927-4150
or e-mail to: jaycdesigns@pacific.net.ph

IMMEDIATELY HIRING

TWO (2)LAWYERS

Male or Female not more than 35 years old, graduate of a reputable school. Must have at least 3-5 years experience.

Please submit or send your resumé, latest 2x2 picture and transcript of records to:

P.O. Box 13135 Ortigas Center, Pasig City

NTFP Exchange Programme

The NTFP-EP (Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme), a regional network of organizations based in Southeast Asia (*see* www.ntfp.org), is **in search of staff for a one year project** supported by the Delegation of the European Commission through the EU-Philippines Small Projects Facility. The project is entitled "Building the capacities of indigenous and rural handicraft–producing communities towards market expansion to Europe as a strategy to improve the economic and social conditions of the upland poor in the Philippines".

Highly qualified individuals are invited to apply for the following positions:

Project Coordinator

Responsible for the full implementation of the project from coordinating activities, directing and supervising the project staff to preparing technical reports, overseeing preparations for financial reports, and monitoring progress. The Coordinator will provide business management, marketing advice, as well as financial analyses to the project. He/she will also be in charge of identifying and contracting consultants for the project.

Qualifications

- Has had experience in NGO/development work for at least 5 years and has been in a management position for at least 3
- A masters degree in Business Management, Rural Development or the equivalent (preferred)
- Has had experience in implementing enterprise development projects
- Has had experience in dealing with international donor organizations especially in the area of technical and financial reporting

Four (4) Enterprise Development Specialists

A large part of the work involves coordinating enterprise development trainings at the community level. The staff will provide mentoring and troubleshooting support to achieve the desired improvements among the local handicraft producer groups. The position takes into account production planning, quality control and on–time delivery.

Qualifications

- Has had experience in NGO work especially in enterprise development and community–based field work for at least 3 years
- Degree holder in business management or industrial engineering (preferred)
- Able to coordinate enterprise development capability-building activities at the community level and competent in providing expert advice and on-the-job trainings that can improve the knowledge and skills of rural and upland communities
- Based or willing to be assigned to designated area: Negros Occidental, Oriental Mindoro, Bukidnon, South Cotabato
- Fluent in the local language where he/she will be based (highly preferred)

Applicants are requested to submit an **application letter** (please indicate here the position you are applying for) and a **resume** (include a picture and 2 references). Please send your application to: **"The MODI project," NTFP-EP, 92-A Masikap Ext., Bgy. Central, Diliman, Q.C. 1101** or to **ntfp.ep@gmail.com** not later than **February 21, 2005**. Short-listed applicants will be notified.

WANTED

Professional Urban Design Draftsman / CAD Designer

The Urban Planning and Development Authority of the State of Qatar is recruiting a team of professional draftsmen to prepare presentation exhibits for the Master Plan of Qatar.

Job Description: Prepare presentation exhibits and maps that support urban design solutions, urban planning proposals, and general presentations to upper management. Assesses current land database of the Planning Authority to capture required planning data and reorganize data in such a fashion to be used for analysis;

Required Skills: The candidate should have 5 years experience in drafting architectural and planning presentations, graphic design, mapping, and/or geography;

Education: BS/BA in planning, architectural design, graphic design, or a related field.

Email resumés to **HADLE62@yahoo.com** with "Draftsman Resumé" in the subject line. Salary is commensurate upon experience.

IMMEDIATE HIRING!

A Private Company actively engaged in Trading and Chemical Industry has an Immediate need for the following position.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Accounting Graduate
- Female 21-30 years old, single
- Computer literate
- With at least 3 years experience.
- Proficient in both oral and written communication
- Efficient in taxation and bookkeeping
- Pleasant personality and can work under pressure

Pls. Bring RESUMÉ and supporting documents.
Interested applicant may apply at
Rm 3 D, C & E Realty,
26 Mindanao Ave., Q.C.
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URGENTLY NEEDED!!!

MICROSTATION TRAINEE

For possible employment

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any Engineering Course (5 yr. Course) or Computer Science (4 yr. Course) Male or Female
- With or without experience
- 21 to 28 yrs. old
- Single
- With Background in CAD or Windows Operating System is an advantage

Send your resumé to mostcom@globelines.com.ph or dhl mepe@globelines.com.ph - Location of Office: Pasig City

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HRM GRADUATE W/ EXPERIENCE & FOOD ATTENDANT

Apply in person at MARIKIT-NA HAPAG KAINAN 102 Mayor Gil Fernando Ave. San Roque Marikina City.

Tel. No. 645-3630 • 645-5460

FIL-ASIA CONCEPTS, INC.

is urgently in need of::

STORE SUPERVISOR

College graduate with excellent interpersonal & communication skills, computer literate, with good research skills, and with at least (2 years) work experience in mall or retail management in the areas of leasing, marketing, customer service, advertising and promotion, in a supervisory capacity.

For manpower pooling for future requirements:

OPERATIONS ADMIN. ASST.

College graduate, computer literate; trained in MS Office, preferably female, 23 – 30 years old, and with good interpersonal & communication skills. Possesses pleasing personality & is well groomed. Willing & able to work long hours.

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASST.

College graduate, with at least one (1) year customer service work experience or its equivalent, with pleasing personality and well-groomed, proficient in written and spoken English & Tagalog, and computer literate, preferably trained in MS Office.

Perferably, residents of Ortigas, Q.C., or Alabang.

Interested applicants should submit their comprehensive resume' with transcript of school records and ID photo to:

HR Department
Unit 2010 Robinsons Equitable Tower
ADB Ave., Cor. Poveda St.,
Ortigas Center Pasig City
Tel#: 638-6077 / 687-3445

Marketing/Sales

Great Opportunity with new Philippine Corporation.

LSTC, a new corporation in the Philippines (sole Distributor of the MailBug) introducing the MailBug (E-Mail Terminal and ISP Service) is seeking professional well groomed and classy female, fluent in English and Tagalog, degreed in Sales and Marketing or Business, with 3-5 years experience in Sales and Marketing in the Computer or Telecommunication Industries. Hard working professional shall develop and secure new accounts with Distributors and Retailers in Metro Manila. Same individual shall also manage sales and delivery requirements from the Distributors and Retail Sales with TL&A International, who manages Materials and Manufacturing of the Mailbug in Laguna.

Qualified applicants should contact LSTC directly (522-2605, 525-6551), Fax Résumé (521-1227) or e-mail resumé to:

LSTC@mailbug.ph or tomlandry@mailbug.ph
All resumés must be submitted
no later than 02/11/05.

A Full-service Law Firm is in need of skilled individuals to fill in the position for

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

- Preferably graduates of UP, Ateneo, La Salle, UST or other reputable schools
- High level of skill in written and spoken English
- High capacity for analytical thought
- Highly organized and willing to work in a fast-paced environment
- Proficient with various computer applications

Please send Application Letter, Resumé, Transcript of Records and other credentials to:
(CODE - LA)
P.O. Box 2028 MCPO, 1260 Makati City

太った少年

YOUR FAVORITE BOY® IS GROWING

We are looking for residents of Pasig, Mandaluyong, Quezon City, Taguig, Makati and Alabang to complete our team for our new stores

Marketing Manager (Code: MM)

- Between 25 to 35 years old
- At least 3 years experience in press and public relations, media handling and events management
- Experience in the development and execution of media plan and LSM for food chain will be an advantage
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Experience in brand management is an advantage

Commissary Manager (Code: CM)

- Between 25 to 35 years old
- College graduate of Industrial Engineering or any similar course
- With at least 3 years experience in the same capacity
- Can conduct studies and analysis in improving delivery logistics
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Experience in inventory & production management

Restaurant Managers/Mgt. Trainee (Code: MT)

- Between 23 to 32 years old
- College graduate preferably HRM or any business course
- With at least 2 years work experience on a managerial/supervisory capacity in the food industry
- With excellent oral and written communication skills

Accounting Clerk (Code: AC)

- Female, 24 to 27 years old
- Graduate of Accountancy
- At least 1 year experience in the same capacity
- Computer literate, knowledge in Payroll processing an advantage
- Trustworthy, hardworking & can work under pressure
- To be based in Pasig City

Maintenance Personnel (Code: MP)

- Male, 20 to 28 years old
- Has knowledge in refrigeration/airconditioning maintenance and repair
- Experience in plumbing, carpentry and electrical works
- With at least 1 year work experience in the same capacity
- Completed a vocational course on any of the competencies listed above

Applicants may send their comprehensive resume at #223 Oranbo Drive, Pasig City 1603 Or e-mail to lesliefm@mydestiny.net. Qualified applicants will be scheduled for interview.

Previous applicants need not apply.

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United States *with*
ARO Community
Services Inc.,

What do we offer that other Direct Hire Employers do not?

We offer you and your family (spouse and children under 21) the opportunity to immigrate to the United States as a permanent resident alien.

We offer a great work environment, paid vacation and excellent benefits

DR. MICHELE ANDERSON, PhD., RN.

Invites you to Intercontinental Manila
No. 1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Manila
2-815-9711

Orientations will be held on
Wednesday, February 8,
Thursday, February 9,
From 10 am to 2 pm

"NO FEES"

Front desk will direct you to conference room

ARO is owned and operated by a registered nurse
Dr. Michele Anderson, PhD., RN,
Dr. Anderson personally guides and assigns each nurse based on his or her experiences and aspirations.

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164 Court Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201

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ARO Community Services Inc. has been employing nurses since 1986.

PSRC
RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL

MOVE TO GREATER HEIGHTS WITH ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS!

A prestigious and leading research agency affiliated with the largest customized research organization in the world invites aggressive and self-motivated individual to fill the following post:

A. STATISTICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

- Must possess a graduate degree in Statistics/Applied Statistics or graduate degree in a course with heavy emphasis on Statistics such as Operations Research or Econometrics.
- Experience with SAS programming is essential
- Knowledge of various bivariate and multivariate statistical techniques, including factor analysis, analysis of variance, multiple regression, logit, discriminant function analysis, cluster analysis, and conjoint analysis.
- Must be a good communicator and be able to write and present statistical findings about complex subject matter in general business terms.

B. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

- Not more than 25 years old, graduate of Statistics, Business Economics, Marketing, Sociology, Anthropology, Communications Research or Economics with above-average scholastic standing.
- Familiar with or has basic knowledge of research (design, implementation, data processing, and analysis)
- Adept with data, analytical, excellent writing and oral communications skills.
- Knowledge of a provincial dialect (Cebuano, Kapampangan, Ilocano, etc.) is an advantage

The role of the above individuals will be varied and challenging; within a friendly team environment; and it also offers very good career prospects.

If you are interested, please send your CV with photo, academic credentials or transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
PHILIPPINE SURVEY & RESEARCH CENTER, INC. – RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL
PSRC Building, Calbayog cor. Kanlaon Sts.
Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City

E-mail address: research@psrc-ri.com.ph

Multimedia Exponents

A total below-the-line communications company

Be part of the winning team in integrated marketing communications!

The Creative Team

Associate Creative Director (ACD)

- Graduates of any four-year course
- Male/Female, 35-38 yrs. old
- At least 2 yrs. experience from an ad agency
- With excellent background in copywriting, conceptualization and idea generation

Associate Art Director (AAD)

- Graduates of Fine Arts major in Advertising or related courses
- Male, 35-38 yrs. Old
- Expert in developing visual concepts based on creative ideas

Senior Visualizer (SV)

- Graduates of Fine Arts major in Advertising or related courses
- Male, 27-30 yrs. old
- Must be hardworking & disciplined
- Proficient in Mac-based software applications

Copywriters (CW)

- Graduates of any four-year course or equivalent
- Male/Female, 24-27 yrs. old
- Preferably with work experience from an ad agency

Other Job Openings

Account Executives (AE)

- Graduates of Marketing, Management, Mass Communication and other related courses
- Female, 22-28 yrs. old
- With significant experience in account management and related fields
- Preferably graduates from reputable schools
- With excellent communication skills
- With pleasing personality

Events & Promo Coordinators (EPC)

- Graduates of Marketing, Mass Communication and other related courses
- Male/Female, 22-28 yrs. old
- With significant experience in event and promo management and production-related projects

Computer Programmers (CP)

- Graduates of Computer Science or Computer Programming
- With at least 2 yrs. work experience in the development of database applications using the following:
  - MS SQL
  - Visual Basic 6.0
  - Crystal Reports
  - Active Server Pages (ASP)

Medical Representatives (MR)

- Graduates of any four-year course
- Male/Female, 20-30 yrs. old
- With excellent communication skills
- Willing to be assigned within Metro Manila or provincial areas

Product Consultants (PC)

- At least college level, preferably in medically allied courses
- Female, 18-28 yrs. old
- With pleasing personality, fair-skinned
- Computer literate
- With good communication skills
- Experience in product promotions and customer servicing, a plus

Interested applicants may personally bring, fax or e-mail their resumes with 2x2 photos and other credentials to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
108 Tordesillas cor. Gallardo Streets,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel No. 812-7108 Fax.. 753-3712
E-mail: recruitment@mme.ph

Please indicate the code on the subject line

If you have what it takes to be in Sales... then we need you!

Responsibility:

- The Sales Executive will be tasked to handle existing clients, establish good relationship, and to identify & seek new business opportunities.

What we can offer:

- Salary commensurate to qualification
- Efficient Sales trainings and coaching
- Travel opportunities

Qualifications:

- Male, 23 to 30 years old, a graduate of any four-year course from a reputable school
- Must have at least 6 months sales experience in any industry and with driving skills. Work experience and proven track record in retail or corporate sales is a definite plus!
- Must posses excellent verbal and written communication skills, with strong, persuasive presentation skills; result-oriented, aggressive and hardworking

Applicants are required to personally submit their resume, 2x2 picture & photocopy of transcript of records. Interested parties may visit our office from February 7, 2005, onwards, 9AM to 3PM Suite 501 CBT Condominium #60 West Avenue, Quezon City, Tel. No. 3739797 Loc. 151 mailed application also accepted.

A Company in the business of advertising photography is in need of an

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Graduate of any business or communication course, preferably from UP, AdMU, DLSU, UST.

- Female, 21-26 years old, of good moral character
- Must be presentable, pleasantly assertive, quick to understand,, energetic with a dynamic personality
- Must be proficient in both oral and written English
- Must be computer literate with knowledge of MS Office.
- Those with at least one (1) year experience in advertising (agency, clients or suppliers side) preferred.

Interested applicants are requested to fax resumé to 724-6009 or email at accountexec@indigoentertainment.com.ph

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"Sales Executive (Electrical)"

- Preferably has his/her own transport. Transport allowance will be given for the right candidate.
- Basic understanding of electrical products will be an added advantage.
- Understanding of electrical contractors, panel builders, and electrical consultants is a must.
- At certain point of employment, training oversea may be required
- Candidates who are energetic, aggressive and with the urge to succeed may apply.

Interested applicants may send resumé to:
sbs@blackstonepower.com.sg
or send together with other credentials directly to:
BLACKSTONE POWER & CONTROLS PHILS.
4th Floor, Room 405, 818 Building
#169 Pasig Boulevard, Capitolyo, Pasig City
Attention: Mr. Carlito Lamora
Tel. No.: 747-5135 / 747-1038

"INTERVIEW will be conducted end of FEBRUARY 2005"

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

LICENSED CHEMIST

Qualification:

- Extensive experience in laboratory setting from a manufacturing plant of veterinary products.
- Preferably below 30 years old
- Computer literate
- Able to work under pressure with minimum supervision
- Willing to be assigned at Angono, Rizal

Qualified applicants are requested to apply in person and must bring their resumé (with 2x2 picture) and transcript of records. Schedule of interview will be on February 1 to 4 & 8 to 11, 2005 between 9am to 3 pm at:

Unit 1009 Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas
Pasig City

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acre, inc.

***ACRE, Inc.** the local partner of a global company that provides statistical, reporting and predictive analytic tools in banking, telecommunications, manufacturing, and other industries needs:*

SPSS

Two Account Management Officers

- A Degree in Statistics or Mathematics
- SPSS experience is a plus
- Ability to translate business issues into technology-based solutions
- Ability to present "with impact" to managers at all levels within organizations as part of the Account Team
- Can work with minimal supervision. Time management and multi-tasking skills fully developed
- Team player
- Solid presentation and communication skills
- Sales-oriented
- Has an aptitude for solving business problems

For additional information, please visit www.spssph.com. Successful candidate is assured of a competitive compensation/benefits package. Qualified applicants should submit their comprehensive resumes with contact phone numbers and 2x2 photos thru e-mail careers@spss-ph.com / nora_nolasco@spss-ph.com

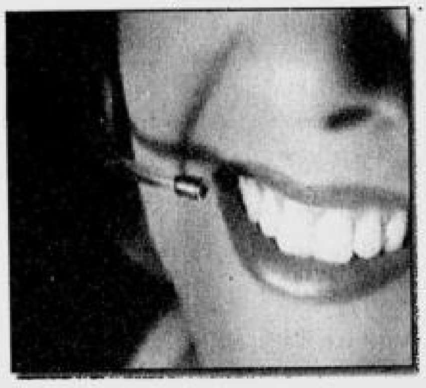
SVI CONNECT

BE PART OF THE MOST ESTABLISHED OUTBOUND CALL CENTER IN THE COUNTRY!

We are hiring dynamic individuals for our US- and UK-based clients:

CONTACT CENTER AGENTS (Ref. Code: CCA)
- *Possesses excellent English communication skills*
- *Very confident, aggressive, enthusiastic, assertive and self- motivated*
- *Highly personable and has strong work ethics*
- *Willing to work in shifting schedules*
- *College graduate of any bachelor's degree*

TRAINING MANAGER (Ref. Code: TRNG MGR)
- *With at least 2 years experience in training at a managerial / supervisory capacity in call center operations, customer relations and/or sales*



OFF SHORE CLIENT PROGRAMMING SUPERVISOR (Ref. Code: PROG SUP)
- *Supervises the Off Shore programmers who coordinate, write and maintain client scripts, reports and software necessary as they relate to the needs of our clients*
- *Earned a Bachelor's degree from a reputable university; or two to four years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience*
- *Must have two years appropriate supervisory/ management experience of a team of programmers or a team of IT production/ maintenance personnel*
- *Must be comfortable with the following scripting and programming languages; Visual Basic, Dbase, Visual Dbase, FoxPro, Excel, MS Access, SQL and UNIX*
- *Willing to work during the graveyard shift*

HR MANAGER (Ref. Code: HR MGR)
- *With at least 2 years experience in human resource management at a managerial / supervisory capacity in call center operations, customer relations and/or sales*
- *Must be knowledgeable in all aspects of human resource management*

SVI CONNECT CORPORATION

🖂 5th Floor The Orient Square, F. Ortigas Jr. Road (formerly Emerald Ave.), Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
recruitment@sviconnect.com.ph ☎ (632) 638-2767

AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AUSAID) PHILIPPINE AUSTRALIA COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Invitation for Applications for the Position of Provincial Activity Officer

BACKGROUND:
The Philippine Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP) is a long running Australian small-grants scheme that provides support for community based activities. It is funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). PACAP is now entering a new five year phase which will be implemented by the Australian company, Hassall and Associates International (HAI) in association with the Philippine company, Sustainable Development Solutions (SDS). During this new phase there will be a further shift of PACAP's focus to the southern Philippines. AusAID has identified five target Provinces in which one component of PACAP's intervention will concentrate. This component is called the Focused Community Assistance Scheme (FOCAS) and the selected Provinces are Agusan del Sur, Bohol, Misamis Occidental, Northern Samar, and Surigao del Norte.

HAI and SDS now invite applications from suitably qualified personnel for the position of Provincial Activity Officer (PAO). There will be one PAO appointed within each Province and it is preferred if the applicant is a full time resident of the Province. The PAO will be the "face" of PACAP in the Province and thus should be dynamic, well presented, and trustworthy.

JOB DESIGNATION **Provincial Activity Officer, PACAP**
REPORTS TO Area Manager, PACAP
SPECIFIC DUTIES:
1) Establish and maintain the PACAP Provincial Office;
2) Assist the Provincial Stakeholder Committee (PSC), and other PACAP stakeholders to develop the Provincial Engagement Strategy and contribute to the Strategic Guidance framework;
3) Act as secretariat to the Provincial Stakeholder Committee;
4) Under the direction of the Area Manager and PSC, assist with the implementation of one or more Focused Community Assistance Schemes (FOCAS) in each province including support to the establishment and strengthening of a FOCAS Management Committee for each scheme.
5) Appraises activity proposals developed and prepare Activity Appraisal Reports
6) Conduct regular monitoring of ongoing PACAP activities and prepare reports on monitoring visits
7) Provide technical assistance to implementing partners during the development and implementation phases of the activities
8) Liaise with non-government organizations, government and other institutions, as appropriate, during the appraisal and monitoring of individual activities
9) Liaise with other assistance projects or activities implemented by government, donors or civil society and ensure PACAP activities integrate with these where appropriate
10) Provide assistance to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of PACAP
11) Perform other related functions that may be assigned by the Area Manager

CORE COMPETENCIES:
- Ability to analyse, appraise, monitor and review relevant policy, program, project and/or resource management matters
- Ability to implement and monitor development and financial programs
- Adaptability, sound judgement and ability to prioritize workload effectively
- Effective communication, interpersonal and teamwork abilities, including an ability to build and maintain strong relationships with stakeholders
- Proven ability to prepare written proposals, reports and papers, and perform committee secretariat functions
- Good appreciation of social, economic and cultural issues affecting aid delivery and Australia's aid program
- Ability to utilise various information technology systems

Applications:
Interested applicants should prepare their:
1. Curriculum Vitae including the names and contact details of two referees
2. A letter of application outlining how their skills match the Core Competencies identified above. The letter should not exceed 3 A4 pages.

The Application Letter and CV should be either posted, faxed, or emailed to:

Jonas Tetangco
Program Manager (PACAP)
Sustainable Development Solutions
Unit 204 Jade Centre Building
105 Shaw Boulevard
1600 Pasig City Metro Manila
Philippines

Phone: +63 (02) 9102907
Facsimile: +63 (02) 6339661
Email: jonas@sds.com.ph

Closing Date for applications is **5:00pm on Wednesday 9 February 2005**

JOB Market online

VISIT US AT: www.jobmarketonline.com

Canon

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc. (ci-tech), one of Canon's largest Product R&D center in the world, develops products and technologies for imaging and networking. We seek to recruit engineers and other positions for our current and future projects. Comprehensive training programs and overseas travel opportunities await qualified employees. Attractive compensation packages offered.

Software Engineers
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering, Computer Science, IT or any related course
- Responsible for software development for future Canon products such as printers, copiers, and digital cameras
- Must have strong programming skills using C, C++, and Java
- Knowledgeable in algorithms, data structures and operating system concepts

Administrative Personnel
- College graduate
- Must be able to speak, read and write in Japanese. Relevant certifications are an advantage.
- Responsible for administrative tasks such as handling communications, reports generation and simple Japanese translation
- Good oral and communication skills
- Hardworking and Team-oriented

Please send a copy of your comprehensive resumé with recent passport-size photo and Transcript of Records to

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc.
Human Resources Department
2nd Floor Techno Plaza One, 18 Orchard Road
Eastwood, Quezon City 1110

Or e-mail your resume and Transcript of Records to recruitment@citech.com.ph

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A PROGRESSIVE MANUFACTURING COMPANY IN QUEZON CITY NEEDS THE FF:

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

- **FIVE (5) PRODUCTION ENGINEER**
  Male or Female, 20-30 years old. Graduate/undergraduate of any engineering course. Must have at least work experience as quality assurance engineer for process & product inspection. Preferably has skill in AUTOCAD. Candidates with experience in actual construction are also welcome. Must be willing to do work in extended hours and willing to be assigned in fieldwork.
- **THREE (3) WAREHOUSE CHECKER**
  Male or Female, 20-30 years old, at least college level or a 2-year course grduate. Must be hardworking, honest, responsible and trustworthy. Can work with minimum supervision. Must be willing to do work in extended hours and willing to be assigned in fieldwork.
- **THREE (3) OFFICE STAFF**
  Female, between 22-30 years old, a college graduate. Must be hardworking, honest, responsible, trustworthy and dynamic team player. Has an excellent communication skill with pleasing personality. Must be willing to do work in extended hours.
- **TWO (2) PATTERN MAKER**
  Male, between 22-30 years old, graduate of Pattern Making Technology. Must have work experience in wood & aluminum pattern making.

Interested applicants may call on **(632)-416-9345** (Mon.-Sat. 9:00-11:00 a.m.; 2:00-5:00 p.m. only) or **0921-6531512.** Applicants may also send their resumé with a recent 2x2 photo in MS Word Format to **chiefdidy@yahoo.com** Kindly indicate the position you are applying for.

ATTENTION:

MLM LEADERS

International MLM Company is looking for DYNAMIC, MOTIVATED, LEADERS who will be responsible for the expansion of their fast growing MLM business in the Philippines. If you are the ONE, call (02) 637-1562. Limited TOP positions are offered. Interview period will be from February 01 to February 03, 2005 Only.

TIME IS THE ESSENCE!

WOMEN'S COLLEGES JOIN IN A MAJOR CAREER FAIR AT THE GLORIETTA

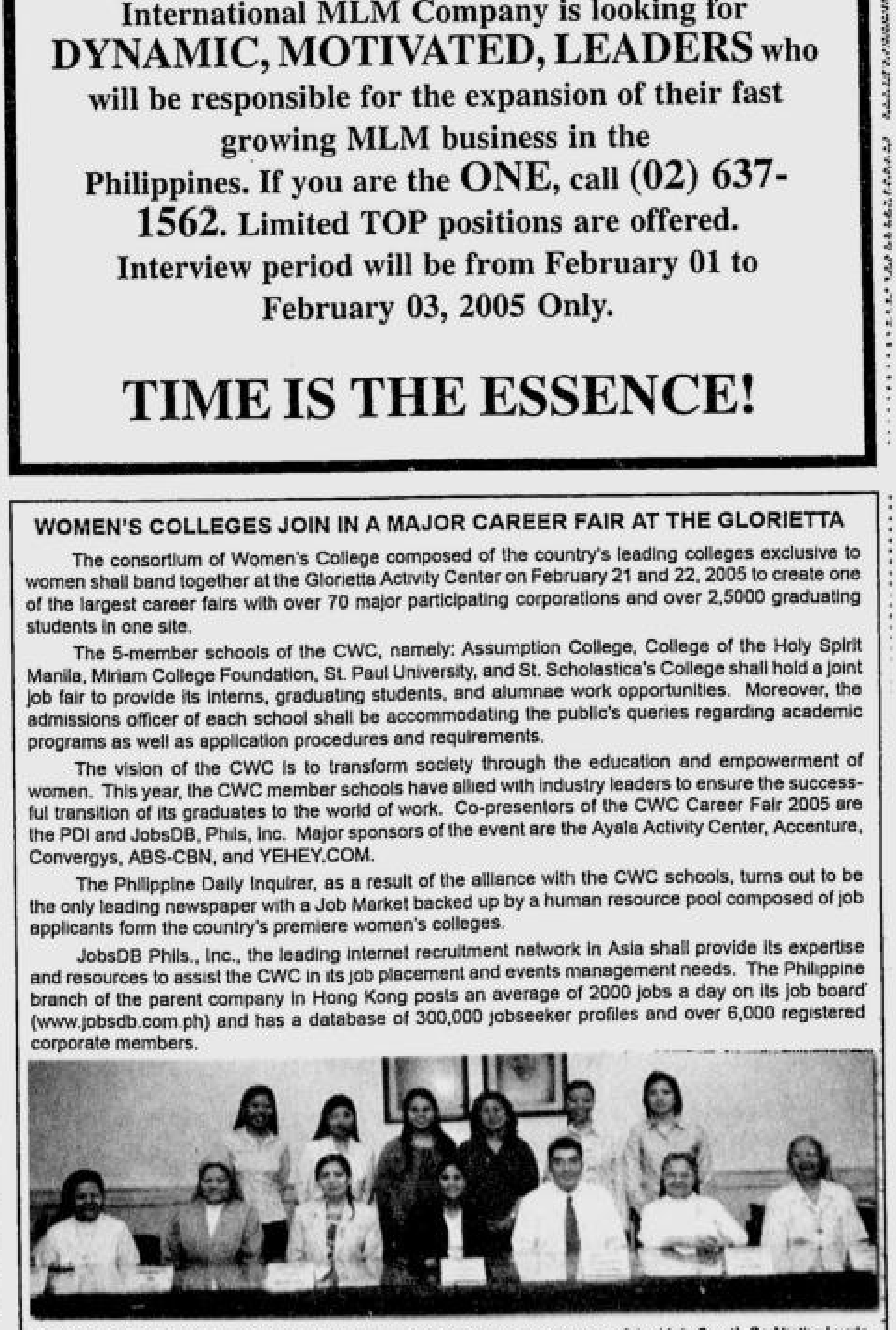
The consortium of Women's College composed of the country's leading colleges exclusive to women shall band together at the Glorietta Activity Center on February 21 and 22, 2005 to create one of the largest career fairs with over 70 major participating corporations and over 2,5000 graduating students in one site.

The 5-member schools of the CWC, namely: Assumption College, College of the Holy Spirit Manila, Miriam College Foundation, St. Paul University, and St. Scholastica's College shall hold a joint job fair to provide its interns, graduating students, and alumnae work opportunities. Moreover, the admissions officer of each school shall be accommodating the public's queries regarding academic programs as well as application procedures and requirements.

The vision of the CWC is to transform society through the education and empowerment of women. This year, the CWC member schools have allied with industry leaders to ensure the successful transition of its graduates to the world of work. Co-presentors of the CWC Career Fair 2005 are the PDI and JobsDB, Phils, Inc. Major sponsors of the event are the Ayala Activity Center, Accenture, Convergys, ABS-CBN, and YEHEY.COM.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, as a result of the alliance with the CWC schools, turns out to be the only leading newspaper with a Job Market backed up by a human resource pool composed of job applicants form the country's premiere women's colleges.

JobsDB Phils., Inc., the leading internet recruitment network in Asia shall provide its expertise and resources to assist the CWC in its job placement and events management needs. The Philippine branch of the parent company in Hong Kong posts an average of 2000 jobs a day on its job board (www.jobsdb.com.ph) and has a database of 300,000 jobseeker profiles and over 6,000 registered corporate members.



SEATED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Sr. Eufracia L. Marcojos, SSpS (The College of the Holy Spirit); Sr. Nintha Lucila Baldado, SPC (St. Paul's University, Quezon City); Dr. Grace Aguiling-Dalisay (Miriam College Foundation, Inc.); Ms. Jayjay Viray (JobsDB Phils, Inc.); Mr. Renato R. Reinoso (The Philippine Daily Inquirer); Sr. Josefina G. Nepomuceno, OSB (St. Scholastica's College, Manila); Sr. Josefina Ma. Magat, R.A. (Assumption College, Inc.) STANDING FROM L-R: Ms. Pia Montemayor (Convergys), Ms. Jennifer Sy (Convergys), Ms. Amsther Tangco (ABS-CBN Broadcasting); Ms. Lourdes Abrillo (ABS-CBN Broadcasting), Ms. Len Aldaba (Accenture), Ms. Mari Villarino (Accenture)

We are a fast growing IT company with international operations. We are currently expanding and need young, dynamic, highly qualified individuals for the following positions:

CONTROLLER

- Responsible for establishing accounting policies and practices for the company; maintaining fiscal records; collection, consolidation and preparation of financial reports and analysis
- Certified Public Accountant; minimum 5 years professional experience, 3 years in similar capacity from a reputable company, multinational experience preferred.

TAX ACCOUNTANT

- Responsible for preparation of all tax dues, documents and tax remittances particularly on VAT, withholding tax and final tax
- Certified Public Accountant preferred

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) DELIVERY SERVICES MANAGER

- Responsible for independent testing of all ICT related projects and endeavors (Test Management, Service Level Management and Vendor Management, Availability and Capability Management, ICT Service Continuity Management and ICT Finance)
- Degree on Computer Engineering or Computer Science or related Engineering course; with relevant experience in an IT operations environment

PROJECT OFFICER

- Will assist Project Manager in establishing Methodologies and Standards; and to facilitate and create project documentation
- Must have good IT background, knowledge in systems integration preferred
- Usability and QA background is a plus

IT CUSTODIAN

- Responsible for the equipment and materials inventory of the IT Department
- Experience in Purchasing and knowledge in IT a plus; must be highly organized

ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP OFFICER

- Responsible for managing existing relationships with all sponsors; and sourcing new sponsors for all media vehicles
- Minimum (2) years experience in selling media (TV/radio/print/outdoor) ad space

HR SPECIALIST/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS OFFICER

- Will assist HR Manager in Employee Relations activities and Recruitment
- Minimum (3) years experience in similar position

TRAINING OFFICER

- Responsible for delivery of Training and Development programs as well as long term Organizational Development
- Must have minimum 2 years experience in similar capacity in a fast-paced environment

KOREAN INTERPRETER

- Must be proficient in English and Korean languages, written and oral
- Has the maturity to interface with top executives
- IT knowledge required

This is a great opportunity for young professionals (not more than 35 years of age) to join a global-class IT company. Highly competitive remuneration packages including bonuses and essential benefits await the successful candidates.

THIS IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT. Please email your comprehensive resumes to:

rpsearch@i-next.net (ATTN: CDA)
not later than Friday, February 11, 2005

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essensuals

NEXT GENERATION TONI&GUY

If your CAREER is what turns you on,
have the time of your life with **TONI&GUY**

We are currently inviting interested and highly motivated individuals to join our team in MAKATI and ALABANG and qualify for the following positions:

1. HAIR STYLISTS

☐ 20-35 years old
☐ With at least 3 years experience as stylist
☐ College level, with good communication skills in Filipino and English

2. COLOR TECHNICIAN

☐ 20-35 years old
☐ With basic knowledge of color theory and color application
☐ College level, with good communication skills in Filipino and English

3. ASSISTANT SALON MANAGER

☐ 25-35 years old
☐ College graduate from a reputable school
☐ Has good interpersonal and communication skills
☐ Previous supervisory/management experience required

4. FRONT DESK PERSONNEL

☐ 21-25 years old
☐ Willing to be trained
☐ College Graduate, with good communication skills in Filipino and English

5. SALON ASSISTANT

☐ 18-25 years old
☐ Willing to be trained
☐ Salon work experience is an advantage

6. NAIL TECHNICIAN/MANICURIST
7. BOOKKEEPER
8. INVENTORY CLERK

* All positions require willingness to work on weekends and holidays

Interested applicants may send/submit their resumé with photo to

G/F 6750 Retail Arcade, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

A fast growing retail chain is looking for:

STORE MANAGERS
ASST. STORE MANAGERS
MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- Experience in retail operations
- Computer Literate
- Able to handle people
- Sales Oriented

STORE MERCHANDISERS & CASHIERS

- 21 to 25 years old
- College level

PURCHASING CLERK

- College Graduate
- Computer literate
- Fast Encoder

Apply in person to: Ms. Tess C. Ramos
Office Warehouse Building
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave.
Libis, Quezon City
(Across Libis Fire Station)

MBC MARTINEZ BUSINESS CENTER

MBC is in immediate hiring of young, dynamic and aggressive

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to pioneer its sales team. If you possess the following qualifications:

- 21-25 years old
- College degree from a reputable university
- Excellent in oral and interpersonal skills
- Agressive, results oriented, and at ease when talking/meeting new people
- Preferably with exposure or experience in sales and has a good network of contacts

Send your resumé and 2x2 picture to:

Ruel A. Martinez
Room #2220, 22/F Herrera Tower,
Herrera St. cor. Valero St., Makati City
Fax Nos.: 753-1881/753-1828

We Think Like a Customer

JOB VACANCIES:

FOR MANILA:

Customer Service Representatives
Technical Support Representatives
Payroll Supervisor
Payroll Assistant
Accounting Assistant

FOR BAGUIO:

Technical Support Representatives
Customer Service Representatives
Admin and Facilities Officer
Telecoms Engineer
Site Support Supervisor
Site Support Technician
Employment Administrator
Purchasing Clerk

Bring your resume w/ 2x2 picture,
SSS & TIN nos.

JOBFAIRS:

PASIG:
Mon to Fri (9am-3pm) Feb 7 - 11
22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza,
Emerald Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

BAGUIO:
Mon to Fri (9am-5pm) Feb 7 - 11
Baguio Economic Zone, Loakan Rd.,
Baguio City

CLIENTLOGIC
Philippines Inc.
Ortigas Center Baguio City

22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
E-mail: recruitment@clientlogic.com.ph www.clientlogic.com

We are a medium-sized Commercial Bank that belongs to the top 20 in the Banking Industry.

We are in search of Candidates who are highly competent and top performers in the banking industry and other related industries.

We provide competitive compensation package and fast-track career path to Candidates who have the track record of meeting Key Performance Indicators and exceeding Key Performance Targets.

The job opportunities are as follows:

1. Branch Heads (Angeles/Binondo/Malolos/Shaw Boulevard/other area in Metro Manila; Luzon; Bacolod/Cebu/Iligan/Iloilo; Cagayan De Oro/ Davao/General Santos/Zamboanga)

- Has proven track record in terms of business performance (i.e., deposit generation, profitability, accounts acquisition & maintenance) with the rank of at least a Manager
- Customer service excellence oriented
- Highly proficient in communication, both oral & written (Chinese speaking, an advantage)
- Effective leader
- A sound decision-maker
- Preferably male

2. Customer Relations Officers – Branches (Metro Manila; Luzon; Bacolod/Cebu/Iligan/Iloilo; Cagayan De Oro/Davao/General Santos/ Zamboanga

- Has proven track record in selling and cross-selling of products and services, with the rank of at least a Junior Officer
- Customer service excellence oriented
- Highly proficient in communication, both oral & written (Chinese speaking, an advantage)
- Effective supervisor
- Preferably male

3. Account Officers – Lending (Binondo/Makati)

- Has proven track record in terms of business performance (i.e., loan volume, quality of loan portfolio, accounts acquisition & consolidation) with the rank of at least an Assistant Manager
- Customer service excellence oriented
- Highly proficient in communication, both oral & written (Chinese speaking, an advantage)
- Preferably male

4. Marketing Officers – Treasury (Binondo/Makati)

- With at least 2 years work experience as Money Market Dealer or Marketing Officer in a financial institution
- With work experience in Private Banking (an advantage)
- Customer service excellence oriented
- Highly proficient in communication, both oral & written (Chinese speaking, an advantage)
- Preferably male

5. Senior Credit Reviewer – Credit Policy & Support (Makati)

- Has at least 2 years work experience as a Credit Reviewer in a Commercial Bank with the rank of at least an Junior Assistant Manager
- Highly analytical and strong attention to detail
- Proficient in communication, both oral & written
- Preferably male

6. Selection and Placement Officer – Human Resources (Makati)

- Has at least 1 year work experience on Selection and Placement with the rank of at least a Junior Assistant Manager (exposure in Banking, an advantage)
- Customer service excellence oriented
- Highly proficient in communication, both oral & written
- Highly trainable on the other facets of Human Resources
- Preferably male, not more than 30 years old

If you are the Candidate that we are looking for, make the right move. Send your comprehensive Resume at career_mv@yahoo.com not later than February 07, 2005.

We also provide job opportunities for college graduates batch 2004, with the following qualifications:

- Proficient in communication, both oral & written (chinese speaking, an advantage)
- Represent the top 30% in class
- Willing to be assigned in Branches or Head Office (Makati)
- Highly trainable
- Preferably male

If interested, send your resume at first_jb@yahoo.com not later than February 7, 2005.

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Monico Jacob, STI CEO/President
in his challenge to all STIers

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Get a chance to win 1 of 20 USB flash drives (128MB) by filling out this coupon and bringing it to the event so you can join in the raffle. *(Raffle Draw - March 1, 2005 at STI HQ)*

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Year / Month of Graduation: ____________________
Program / Course: ____________________
STI Branch: ____________________
Validated by: ____________________

* for graduating students only

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MARKETING ASSISTANTS (M/F)
22 - 25 YEARS OLD, ABLE TO ASSIST IN MARKETING, SALES, ADVERTISING, PROMOTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, ETC.

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OTHER POSITIONS AVAILABLE ARE:
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HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANTS • EVENTS MANAGERS
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MILLENIUM CHEMICAL RESOURCES

A chemical firm engaged in Sales of Preventive Maintenance Chemicals, Lubricants, and Special Paints is in need of:

(10) MARKET SPECIALIST:

- Female not more than 27 years old with pleasing personality
- Graduate of any course (graduates of business related course would have a definite advantage).

WE OFFER : Lucrative salary package, commission scheme, transportation allowance, monthly incentives

The successful candidate must value the importance of long-term career profession, willing to handle work in a pressure-filled atmosphere, goal-oriented and self-motivated, and with efficient communication skills.

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APPLY in PERSON with your comprehensive Resumé,
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SUCCESSFUL applicants will be CALLED for interview.

4th Flr. JOSE PURA BLDG., 109 K2nd St. cor. Erestain St.
(former K-D) Kamuning, Quezon City,
Tel. No. 928-1524 / 990-8881 • email: mcr_inc@hotmail.com

NURSE/PHARMACIST/STOCK ANALYST

A health benefits management company is in need of professionals with the following qualifications:

☐ Male or Female, a registered professional, not less than 5'2" in height, not more than 28 years of age;
☐ Has at least one (1) year experience in clinical or hospital work;
☐ Possess a pleasing personality, a good communication & interpersonal skills;
☐ Must be computer literate.

Interested physicians may send or apply personally with the following credentials: detailed resumé with 2x2 picture, photocopy of board certificate & transcript of records. Please address applications to:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM, INC.
Unit 305 3rd Level EDSA Central Pavilion, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 631-85-01 Local: 7139 or 634-5714

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- Submit a research proposal

** Deadline for submission of application is on February 28, 2005*
** Academic Year 2005 starts on April 1, 2005*

General Requirements for Application
1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the Weighted General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer & or/ Director of the previous Training Programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2" x 2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:
JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

** Deadline for submission of application is on February 28, 2005*
** Academic Year 2005 starts on April 1, 2005*

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09192885303) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09163021735) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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DEALER SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Electronics, Marketing and any other business related course
- Computer literate
- With experience in selling Electronic Cash Register machine and office equipment
- Fast learner/to handle dealer sales network
- Not more than 30 years old

Apply in person to:
OLYMPIA PHILIPPINES, INC.
1402-1408 Pres. Quirino Ave. cor South Super Highway
Paco Manila

CONTACT POINT
31/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 910-5181 to 84 | Fax No. 9105175

ContactPoint Outsource Services, Inc. is a customer relationship management company utilizing voice technologies. A spin-off from the call center operations of Pacific Internet Philippines, ContactPoint evolved into a fully operational global outsourcing call center in November 2002.

ContactPoint has now become one of the fastest growing call centers, expanding operations capacity by more than 300% in less than a year's time. Located in the heart of Ortigas Business Center, ContactPoint services US-based clients included in Fortune Top 500 Companies offering complete outbound, inbound, and customer service capabilities to a wide range of businesses and consumer markets.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HEAD - (PDI-ITH)

THE JOB
- Plans, administers and reviews acquisition, development, maintenance and use of computer, telecommunications systems and network infrastructure.
- Works out current and future IT needs by consulting with people at all levels about the current work systems and deciding how improvements could be made
- Analyzes the information needs of the company and develop technological solutions to satisfy those needs
- Prepares or directs IT policy and plan strategy development
- Directs activities to select and install major IT facilities
- Oversees the provision of training for users and clients
- Directs the integration of IT operations, computer hardware, operating systems, communications, software applications and data processing
- Works out priorities for systems developments, maintenance and operations
- Controls the security aspects of IT systems

QUALIFICATIONS
- Minimum years of experience on the following areas:
  - Applications Development – 3 years
  - Data Center Management – 3 years
  - Project Management – 2 years
- With adequate experience in database administration, network administration, business recovery planning, systems and methods documentation, vendor management.
- With strong people management and conflict resolution skills

Please indicate Job Code on your application letter or e-mail to facilitate processing of your application.

Interested applicants may send or e-mail us at:
31/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
jobs_cp@pacific.net.ph | Fax No. 9105175

You may also visit or call us at www.contactpoint.bz or 910-5181 to 84

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SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- ✓ Male or female not older than 30 years old
- ✓ With at least 1 year work experience
- ✓ Knowledge of Microsoft Word & Excel
- ✓ Has multi-tasking ability with good interpersonal skills
- ✓ Good oral & written English communication skills

SECRETARY/OFFICE ADMINISTRATION GRADUATE

- ✓ Knowledge of Microsoft Word & Excel
- ✓ Proficient in both oral & written English
- ✓ Should have pleasing personality
- ✓ Client oriented & dependable
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Call 636-6327 to 29 (look for Dess)

INQUIRER

JOB Market

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St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Quezon City
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SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
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AHH YES! IT'S YOUR DESIRE.
A CHALLENGE THAT GETS YOUR
HEART PUMPING. YOU WILL DO
EVERYTHING TO EARN THE MARK AS
IT BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN YOU.

It's not going to be easy, but the reward is great. You will have a career with excellent growth opportunities in a fun and supportive environment. No less than the industry's best will coach you through comprehensive training and mentoring programs to let you reach your full potential.

And based on the latest Watson Wyatt's Industry Compensation Survey, eTelecare's compensation and benefits package is the best.

Perhaps it's the training or team culture or the knowledge that you work for the world's most awarded call center. But whatever it is, you'll get that feeling, you'll get that high when you have earned the e mark.

Industry-leading Employee Satisfaction Rating
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Ranked # 1 inWatson Wyatt's Industry Compensation Survey
Winner of ICCM's Best Outsourcer for four straight years
Truly a Great Place to Work

MANILA CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

OPERATIONS
- Resource Analyst
- Multilingual Customer Service Associate (French, Japanese, Portuguese, Dutch, Russian)
- Shift Managers
- Operations Managers

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION
- External Communications and Events Officer

CORPORATE FOUNDATION SKILLS
- Researcher

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT GROUP
- Senior Officer for Career Development
- Senior OD Process Officer
- Process Improvement Officer
- OD Associate for Assessment

FINANCE
- Financial Analyst
- Internal Audit Manager

CORPORATE SECURITY OFFICE
- Business Continuity Planning Officer
- Contract Quality Assurance Manager
- Project Manager for Program Implementation

CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT
- Asset Specialist
- Store Assistant

CORPORATE HUMAN RESOURCES
- Compensation and Benefits Manager
- HR Consultant
- Employee Relations Officer

INFORMATIONTECHNOLOGY
- Senior Applications Developer
- Junior Helpdesk Associate

CEBU CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

OPERATIONS
- Team Leaders
- Technical Support Representatives
- Quality Assurance Associates
- Customer Service Associates
- Shift Managers
- Operations Managers
- Resource Specialists

CORPORATE HUMAN RESOURCES
- Recruiting Officers
- Employee Relations Officer
- Employee Events Staff

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- Telecoms Specialist
- Computer Systems Specialist

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT GROUP
- Organizational Development Manager
- Organizational Development Officer
- Organizational Development Trainer

CORPORATE SECURITY
- Security Officer

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  Eastwood City Cyber Park
  Bagumbayan, Quezon City
  Cebu Office: 6/F PIPC Engineering Sciences Bldg.
  Asia Town IT Park, Salinas Drive
  Lahug, Cebu City 6000
- **E-mail** your resume to —
  Manila: recruiting@etelecare.com
  Cebu: ceburecruiting@etelecare.com
  or www.etelecare.com
- **Fax** your resume to —
  Manila Recruiting: (02) 687-4841
  Cebu Recruiting: (032) 415-8458

THE WORLD BANK
Requires
TEAM ASSISTANTS

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) has a vacancy for **two (2) top caliber Team Assistants** to provide efficient and high- quality secretarial and administrative support to managers. This position will be for a two-year term appointment, subject to one-year probationary period, with possibility of renewal. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Drafts routine correspondence and proof-read documents using proper grammar, punctuation and style.
- Edits documents based on comments provided by the team members.
- Uses word processing or desktop publishing skills to produce complex text, figures, graphs, etc., according to standard Bank formats and business procedures.
- Coordinates and updates team and mission schedules taking priorities and changes into account, monitor changes, and inform relevant parties accordingly.
- Solve non-routine problems (e.g., responds to requests requiring file search and basic research through Intranet or Internet, Bank manuals).
- Assists in the preparation and logistical planning of various events, e.g., missions, conferences, workshops, etc.
- Tracks key milestones and alerts Task Team Leaders on the tasks' timelines, deliverables, budget status, etc.
- Coordinates with relevant staff, and provides assistance and or information on project related matters as requested.
- Maintains and regularly updates distribution lists, contact lists of project counterparts, etc.
- Ensures timely distribution of documents based on Bank procedures.
- Keeps track of paper flow and maintains up to date unit and project files (both paper and electronic).
- Participates in selected mission activities such as meetings and field work.
- Responds effectively and in a timely manner to information requests from the team, other Bank staff, external clients and partners.

Selection criteria:

- College degree in any relevant field;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, ability to establish and maintain excellent work relations in a team environment;
- High degree of initiative, flexibility and resourcefulness with a drive for efficiency and results;
- Excellent organizational skills, ability to prioritize assignment and work effectively under pressure with minimum supervision;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino;
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Database program);
- Thorough working knowledge of general office procedures, facsimile machines and e-mails; and
- Minimum five (5) years experience in secretarial and administrative work, preferably with high ranking officials.

The World Bank offers a competitive compensation package based on the local market, and attractive medical and pension plans. The salary will not be subject to income tax.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than **February 18, 2005** to : **KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc.**, c/o Ruby C. Barcelona at 22/F 139 Corporate Centre, 139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or email to rubib@ksearchasia.com ; fax to 893-6259

Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.

KSEARCH

GSI GeoSpatial Solutions, Inc.

GeoSpatial Solutions Inc., an ISO 9001:2000 Certified ICT and GIS company providing On-Demand solutions, is looking for dynamic, experienced, driven and creative applicants for the following positions:

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Chief of Staff
Senior Marketing Officers
Marketing Assistants
Project Managers
Team Leaders
Java Programmers
Web Developers / Web Designers
Software Quality Assurance Specialists
Bookkeepers
HR Assistant
GIS Programmers
GIS Analysts / Digitizers

Qualifications:

With at least 2 years experience in developing/deploying business applications, preferably in an IBM environment. Graduate of a related 4-year course from a reputable school; with excellent oral and written communication skills. For Chief of Staff and Project Managers, an MS or MBA degree is preferred.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to develop applications using Java, Lotus, WebSphere, DB2, Tivoli, Rational, Linux, ArcGIS, ArcIMS, ArcSDE, MapInfo Professional and MapInfo Extreme.

Interested applicants may send/ hand-carry applications to:

1205 West Tower Philippine Stock
Exchange Centre, Exchange Road,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

E-mail: gipelagio@gsi.com.ph; hr@gsi.com.ph
Phone No.: (632) 637-3201 to 03 & 07
Fax No.: (632) 637-3197

www.gsi.com.ph

SM SUPERMALLS
•PAMPANGA•

WE ARE LOOKING

for proactive, dynamic management professionals who are customer-oriented and computer literate with excellent communication skills to join our team as:

LEASING MANAGER

- With experience in property/tenant management, primarily tasked to scout prospective tenants, processing of lease approvals and monitors areas for lease
- Graduate of any four year-course; background in Marketing, Operations or Accounting will be a plus
- Female; not over 35 years old

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Certified Public Accountant
- With managerial experience in all facets of accounting
- Female; not over 35 years old

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

- Must have at least one year experience in multimedia advertising,promotions and events
- Creative,innovative with good organizational skills and can effectively implement marketing efforts
- Preferably graduate of Communication Arts, Marketing, Fine Arts or any four-year related course
- Female;not over 30 years old

Qualified applicants may apply personally from Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or may send their resume with 2X2 ID Photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
Shopping Center Management Corporation
SM City Pampanga, Mall Administration Office
Barangay San Jose, City of San Fernando

ROYAL BRUNEI

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER–PHILIPPINES

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:
To maximize revenue and profit generation in the area, via all distribution channels, through the most effective and innovative sales and marketing campaigns, within agreed time scales and budgets, through dynamic and effective leadership.

- Meet and exceed all agreed revenue and profitability targets.
- Motivate, coach and lead sales force to exceed targets.
- Develop and maintain excellent relationships with the travel trade, Corporate Accounts, guests, government ministries etc.
- Ensure all sales distribution channels are fully exploited to achieve targets and route profitability.
- To develop and implement sales and marketing strategies that ensure key revenue, cost and profitability targets are met. To maximize yield. Identify potential new markets
- Excellent communication and inter-personal skills

Requirements:
- A minimum of 10 years sales and marketing experience in the travel industry with not less than 5 years of airline background
- A degree holder, preferably MBA
- A valid driving license

Application Procedure:
Interested applicants should support their applications with full personal particulars including qualifications, copies of educational certificates, working experience, extra-curricular in school, a non-returnable passport size photograph, expected salary and telephone number to the following address not later than 20 February 2005.

MANAGER PERSONNEL SERVICES
Department of Administration & Personnel Services
Royal Brunei Airlines Sdn Bhd
P O Box 737, Bandar Seri Begawan BS8671
Negara Brunei Darussalam
E-mail:hrhairam@rba.com.bn

Only short listed applicants will be notified for interview.

Previous applicants need not apply.

TechnoMarine
GENÈVE

An exclusive distributor of sophisticated and elegant luxury timepieces is currently in need of:

SALES ASSOCIATES

Qualifications:
- Graduate of business related course from a reputable university or college
- Relevant work experience gained from a retail environment is an advantage
- Has good command of oral and written English
- Driven, charming, patient and has pleasing personality
- Male or female
- At least 22-29 years old

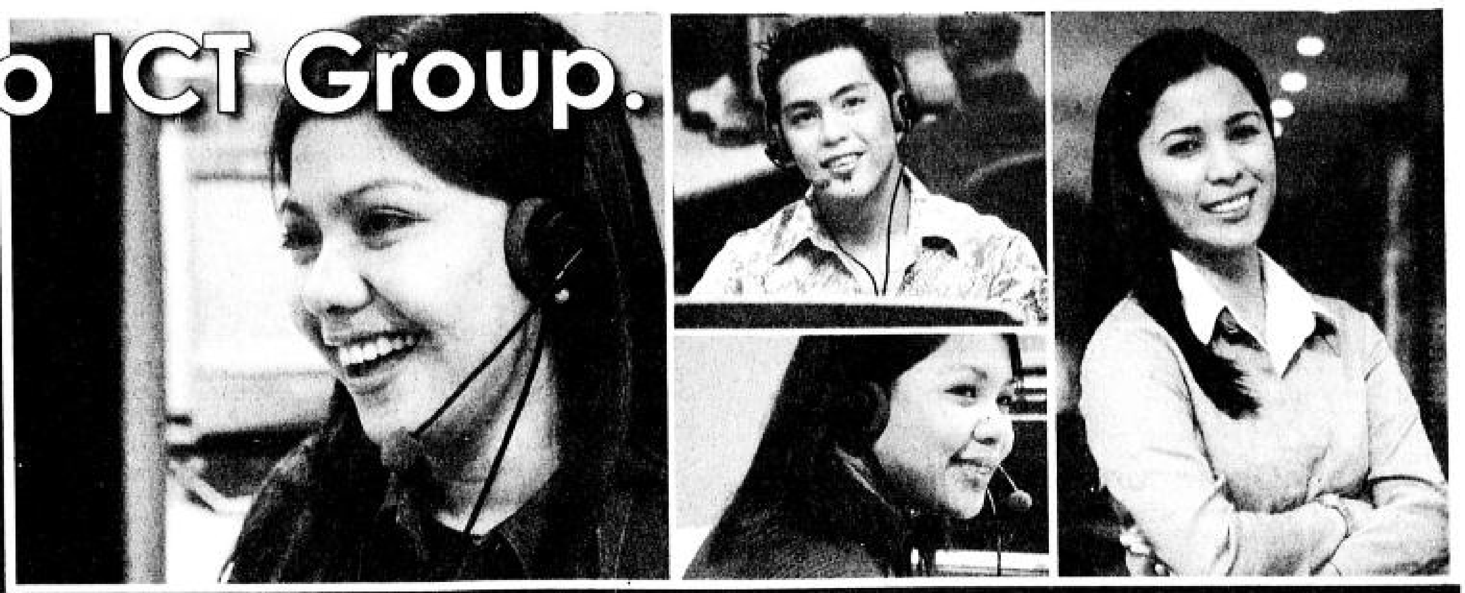
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of BS Accountancy course from a reputable university or college
- Can ably deal with top level officers of the company
- Knowledgeable of all accounting procedures and systems
- Willing to work long hours specially during summer and peak seasons
- Has excellent computer skills in excel
- Personable and has good command of the English Language
- Preferably female
- At least 22-29 years old

Interested Applicants may drop their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to the address below or may come personally on Mon-Fri 1PM-6PM at:

Human Resource Department
Unit 1504 15/F Orient Square Bldg. Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center Pasig City
Or email: rol.hr@eastern.com.ph
Contact Person: Ms. Shane Tarrayo

Welcome to ICT Group.



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OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

OPERATIONS MANAGERS
OPERATIONS SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION SPECIALISTS
QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISORS

- Experience in Managing and Supervising agents and in ensuring that all team deliverables and performance metrics are met FOR A TECHNICAL ACCOUNT

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

- Candidates must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field preferably graduates of an Engineering Degree (EE, ECE, ME, ChE, CoE) /Computer Science or any other IT Related Course
- Graduates of any 2-year IT related courses are encourage to apply
- Experience or working knowledge in hardware, operating systems and applications and software
- Excellent communication skills in conversational ENGLISH
- Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules
- Fresh Graduates/Entry-Level applicants are welcome to apply

Please submit your resume ASAP to
recruitingmanila@ictgroup.com

or

Visit our Recruitment Center

14TH Floor Union Bank Tower, Onyx corner Sapphire Road
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

For more information please call us at
(02) 857-8400 extension 7303

WE ARE CONTINOUSLY RECRUITING FOR OUR MANILA REQUIREMENTS

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

(FOR FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL, SALES AND GENERAL ACCOUNTS)

- Candidates must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field
- Excellent communication skills in conversational ENGLISH
- Active listening skills
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with the customers and with the team
- Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules

FRENCH AND SPANISH SPEAKING REPRESENTATIVES

- Strong conversational skills in French and or Spanish

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS:

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS SPECIALIST

- Four-year college degree in BS Psychology, AB Behavioral Science or any other related course
- Minimum of one-year experience as Compensation and Benefits Specialist
- Working knowledge of Benefits Administration and Management, Compensation and Payroll Administration
- Qualified candidates must have strong analytical, problem solving, and communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedule especially during graveyard shifts

PROGRAMMER

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Computer Science/Information Technology or equivalent
- With at least 7 years of experience in developing software applications (both front-end and back-end)
- Must have experience in all phases of the SDLC process
- At least 3 years experience in handling SIEBEL configuration and development
- Fully conversant with Call Center, CTI, ACD technologies and Call Center benchmarks/best practices
- Deep understanding on design and development of CRM applications
- With experience in C/C++, both Windows and UNIX environments
- Must have 2 to 3 years experience in Unix Shell Scripting.
- Proficiency in Oracle 9i and Oracle UNIX Scripting
- Strong PL/SQL development experience
- With experience in OOD design and methodologies
- Experience with development lifecycle, peer review process, business system integration
- Must have good English communications skills (both verbal and written)
- Ability to integrate and synthesize work requirements; and
- With any industry standard certification (preferred but not required)

FILIPINAS EYE CENTER FOUNDATION, INC.

Project "Construction and Creation of a National Eye Referral Center in the Philippines"

The Filipinas Eye Center Foundation, Inc. (FECFI) seeks highly qualified and motivated

ACCOUNTANT/ ADMINISTRATOR

Candidates should be a CPA with proven experience in similar accountant/administrative functions for at least 2 years, be computer literate (user level), and be fluent in oral and written English. Competitive salary offered. For a detailed job description visit: www.aeci.ph

Send application letter, comprehensive resume and 2x2 photo to:

Filipinas Eye Center Foundation, Inc.
Sentro Oftalmológico Jose Rizal
Philippine General Hospital
Taft Ave., Ermita, Manila.
404-37-38 (Direct Line) / 400-01-20 (Telefax)
fecfi@i-manila.com.ph

Deadline: 5:00pm, February 18, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS

Male/female, single, not more than 30 years old, a graduate of Medicine, Nursing, PT, OT, Pharmacy, Med. Tech, and other allied health courses. Preferably graduates of DLSU-Dasma & UP. Must possess good command of written English. Can type at least 40 wpm. Knowledgeable in MS Word and the internet. ONLY residents of SAN PEDRO, IMUS, BACOOR, LAS PIÑAS, MUNTINLUPA, ALABANG & PARAÑAQUE will be considered. We offer ABOVE-AVERAGE compensation packages. NO night/ graveyard shifts. MONDAY-FRIDAY6 WORKDAYS ONLYU. Email your application letter and resumé to: HRD.MANAGER@AM-ACCUSCRIPTS.COM

Assistant Sales Manager

Responsibilities:

- Supervise operations of the sales team
- Monitor sales reporting, funnel and analysis
- Work closely with principal on marketing promotion and business review
- Plan and implement sales programs

Qualifications:

- Preferred candidates are those with at least 1 year sales supervisory experience
- Must have had prior field sales experience
- A graduate of a business or IT-related course from a reputable college or university
- Possesses skills in sales forecasting, marketing strategy and industry analysis
- Must have excellent interpersonal skills
- With excellent written and communication skills

Account Manager

Qualifications:

- Not more than 30 years old
- College graduate
- Minimum 1 year experience in IT products and solutions
- Strong work ethics, aggressive and hardworking
- Good communication and presentation skills

Sales / Admin Assistant

Qualifications

- Female, not more than 25 years old
- Computer literate
- Working knowledge of MS Office and Corel Draw
- Has initiative, fast learner, can work well under pressure with minimum supervision

Interested candidates may send their comprehensive resumé to **sales@shellsoft.com.ph**
or mail to: Shellsoft Technology Corporation
3rd Floor Megastate Building,
G. Araneta Ave. corner Agno Ext., Quezon City

UNIVERSITY POSITIONS

The following position is open in a leading University:

COLLEGE FACULTY

for the

Institute of Nursing

- Master of Arts in Nursing (M.A.N.) Graduates only

Applicants may send their curriculum vitae to:

P.O. Box SM 452
Sta. Mesa, Manila 1016

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HRD SUPERVISOR

☑ Male or Female
☑ Between 27 to 40 years old
☑ College graduate preferably with post graduate studies
☑ With 3 to 5 years actual work experience in personnel management, counseling and industrial relations, training and development in supervisory or managerial capacity.
☑ Has worked with a service oriented and labor intensive company or similar experience
☑ Familiarity with the Labor Code a plus.
☑ Proficient in oral, written communication and negotiation skills.
☑ Mature disposition

Please mail your application with latest ID picture (colored) and resumé to:

Box No. QC-2005-42
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Building
891 Aurora Boulevard corner Oxford Street
Cubao, Quezon City 1109
E-mail: cvd@skyinet.net

STARCARE HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

Starcare Health Services, Inc., a growing health care company based in Makati, is looking for dynamic individuals, who have passion for excellence, customer service & initiative. We welcome applicants who are team players & possess good decision making skills.

OPEN JOB POSITIONS:

- **Medical clinic Operations Officer**
- **Registered Nurses**
- **Licensed Medical Technologists**
- **Licensed Radiology Technicians**
- **Ultrasound Technicians (female)**
- **Customer Service Representatives (female)**
- **Sales & Marketing Representatives**
- **Retainer Dentist**
- **Retainer Family & Internal Medicine Practitioner**
- **Retainer Radiologist**
- **Retainer Sonologist**

JOB REQUIREMENT: Applicants must have a minimum of two years job experience in medical clinics / hospitals

** Please bring updated comprehensive resumes w/ 2x2 picture; transcript of record; PRC license; NBI clearance; Certificate of Employment & Good Moral Character **

1105 Medical Plaza Makati
Dela Rosa cor. Amorsolo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City, Philippines 1230
Tel (02) 812-4490 / (02) 812-5716 Fax (02) 812-5357
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Julie's Franchise Corporation

Franchise Manager

- at least 30 years old
- graduate of Engineering or any Business-related course
- must have at least 5 years managerial experience in the field of sales, marketing and operations in the franchising industry
- exposure in franchise selling and management is an advantage
- proficient in the following computer applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- good oral and written communication skills
- good interpersonal skills
- willing to travel
- willing to accept Cebu assignment

Bakery Operations Specialist

- preferably single and male; between 23-28 years old; at least 5'4" in height
- graduate of any Business-related course
- must have at least 2 years work experience in the field of sales and marketing
- good oral and written communication skills
- willing to travel
- willing to be assigned anywhere in the Phils
- willing to work overtime and on holidays

Marketing Assistant

- preferably male
- preferably knows how to drive a four wheel vehicle
- graduate of Marketing or Business Management
- work exposure in sales, marketing, advertising and promotions is an advantage
- proficient in the following computer applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- good oral and written communication skills
- willing to travel

Training Specialist

- preferably male and single
- graduate of Psychology or Food Technology
- must have at least two year work experience as a trainer
- exposure in designing training module is an advantage
- good oral and written communication skills
- willing to travel

Purchasing Staff

- graduate of any Business related course
- at least 1 year work experience in canvassing stocks and inventory management
- proficient in the following computer applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- good oral and written communication skills
- preferably knows how to drive a four wheel vehicle
- willing to travel

Warehouse Supervisor

- graduate of any engineering course
- at least 2 years supervisory experience in the field of warehousing, logistics and distribution
- proficient in the following computer applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- good oral and written communication skills

Distribution Supervisor

- graduate of any engineering course
- at least 2 years supervisory experience in the field of warehousing, logistics and distribution
- proficient in the following computer applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- good oral and written communication skills

Customer Service & Business Development Supervisor

- graduate of any business related course
- at least 2 years supervisory experience in the field of sales and marketing
- proficient in the following computer applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- customer service oriented
- good oral and written communication skills

Bakery Supervisor

- graduate of any four-year degree course
- at least 2 years supervisory experience in a fast food industry
- customer service oriented
- good oral and written communication skills
- willing to work on holidays and weekends

Please forward application letter/resumé and TOR not later than February 12, 2005 to:

JULIE'S FRANCHISE CORPORATION
A. Rodriguez Avenue corner Ortigas Extension
Rosario, Pasig City
or email to recruitment@juliesbakeshop.com.ph

VISION - X INC.

LOS ANGELES | WASHINGTON D.C. | MANILA | SHANGHAI

We are in need of MANDARIN/TAIWANESE CALL CENTER REPRESENTATIVES

- ***Fluent in Mandarin / Taiwan Fookien***
- Ability to function in a fast paced customer service driven environment with minimal distraction and supervision
- Average English communication skills
- Enjoys challenges and highly results-oriented
- Knowledge of Email, Internet usage and Microsoft Office programs
- Call Center experience a big plus
- Maintain professional demeanor, high attendance and customer service according to project objectives
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City
- Fresh graduates/Entry level applicants are encouraged to apply

HIGHLY COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION PACKAGE OFFERED TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS!

BRING YOUR UPDATED RESUME WITH PHOTO TO:

Vision-X (Phil.), Inc.
15/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2, Ayala Avenue cor.
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Mondays thru Fridays, 7AM-3PM
Contact No.: 889-2200 local 7053
Email: edscareers@yahoo.com

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Distributor: Preventive maintenance chemicals and lubricants/various Industrial Products

Is in need of **FEMALE - Marketing Professionals** with College Degree and Experience in the same field.

Excellent remuneration package awaits qualified applicants.

Apply in person at:
G/F #323 Miguelin St., Sampaloc, Manila
Look for Marlon/Myra
Tel. 7497408/4932060

Immediately Needed for 2005 Expansion

2 ACCOUNTANTS
- *Female, Graduate of BS Accounting (with or w/o license)*
- *Will assign to supervise Accounting Staffs who handle Inventory, Receivables, Payables, Payroll reporting to SSS/Med./HDMF/W/holding Tax, Rentals, VAT, [illegible], Fixed Asset Mgnt., Commissions, Cost Accounting or other related accounting works.*

5 ACCOUNTING STAFFS
- *Female, single*
- *Fresh Graduate of BSBA major in Management & Computer Application*

2 IMPORT STAFFS
- *Female, single status (w/ no children), College graduates*
- *Computer Literate, Residing at Quezon City area*
- *Fresh College graduate of B.S. Custom Administration or with working experience in handling L/C, TED, Bank Guaranty, Tax Permit, Draft & T/R, Computing Duties & Taxes, Classification of Tariff Heading No. 8, Fill up Import Declaration Entry, Coordinating with Suppliers-L/C details & vessels sched., Bank Debit/Credit Memos, Bank Charges, Shipping Lines-arrival of vessel, Brokers-delivery to destination warehouses.*

Interested Applicants may call Tel # 363-7500

ABM

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A recognized leader in business software consulting practice in the Philippines, managed by experts in the industry. As ABM expands, it continues to maintain and employ a workforce composed of competent CPA Consultants and certified IT/Software Engineers that delivers world-class solutions and services to local and global corporations. ABM's pioneering efforts have resulted to a proven consulting methodology that delivers reliable consulting services both on the technical and implementation level.

Account Managers

- Candidate must in Management, Accounting, Industrial or Chemical Engineering
- At least 2 years of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- A communication skill with ability to make product presentations and network with clients is a must.
- Exposure in selling any of the following systems is an advantage:
  1. Manufacturing Systems
  2. ERP Systems
  3. CRM Systems
  4. Financial Accounting Systems

Technical Support Engineer

- Must be a Computer Engineering graduate
- Two years working experience in Microsoft Operating Systems (XP, IIS Networking/Software on Security) and LINUX
- At least two years working experience providing Technical Support to clients.
- Microsoft Certified Engineer is an advantage.

Sales Director

- At least 28 years old
- Graduate in Management, Accounting or Computer Science
- Skills in IT software selling
- Experience Managing sales person for 3 years
- Experience in handling large customer accounts at least for 2 years
- MBA is a plus

Business Coordinator

- Candidate must have Accounting background
- Has excellent communication skills

Telemarketer

- At least Management graduate with one (1) year experience in the same field
- Has good communication skills

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Send your comprehensive resume to:
Human Resources Officer
2nd Floor UA Building
135 N. Domingo Street,
San Juan, Metro Manila
Or e-mail to: **careeropportunities@abm-computech.com**

Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc.

Rapu Rapu Processing, Inc. Polymetallic Mining Project

RRPI is developing a poly-metallic processing plant and 10MW power station on Rapu-Rapu island, via Legaspi, and will require a skilled maintenance workforce. Accommodation and messing is provided free of charge whilst you are on site.

The following skilled maintenance personnel are invited to submit their CV's as expressions of interest in becoming part of the maintenance crew:

PROCESS CONTROL ENGINEER
PROCESS CONTROL ENGINEER - TRAINEE
MAINTENANCE DATA CLERK

General Requirements:

- Experienced with maintenance of Mining / Processing or Heavy Industrial plant & equipment:
- A positive self motivated attitude and desire to be a team member.
- Total commitment to comply with safe working procedures.

Specific Requirements:

1. The successful Process Control Engineer shall have extensive experience with maintenance of SCADA control systems (CITEC software & Allen-Bradley PLC) and associated digital & analog field devices.
2. The successful Process Control Engineer – Trainee shall have a recognised electrical engineering diploma / degree.
3. The Maintenance Data Clerk shall have proficient computer skills including with MS Office & MS Project software.

Applications shall include the following;

- A recent passport size photo.
- Complete personal details including contact telephone number & email.
- Previous work experience and history.
- Up to date references with current contact details.

Applications close 14th February 2005 to;

The Manager – Engineering
Rapu Rapu Processing, Inc.
PO Box 36,
Legaspi, Albay

A multi-national company is in immediate need of a

CALL CENTER MANAGER

with experience in debt collection

Other Requirements:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in any field.
- Must have skills in business development, call center operations, customer orientation.
- Preferable skills in people management, account management, negotiation skills.
- Must have excellent communication skills
- Must have experience working in a call center environment

Interested applicants may email their resume to: shirley@dollars.com. Please check your e-mail regularly for any correspondence regarding your application.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES PERSONNEL

Please send your resumé & 2x2 picture to:
PCMed Incorporated
3/f Legaspi Towers 300
2600 Roxas Blvd cor. Vito Cruz, Malate Mla.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

OFFICE SECRETARY

- Female, between 20-25 years old
- Computer-literate
- Conversant in English and Filipino

Please send your resumé together with 2x2 colored picture to
PCMed Incorporated
3/f Legaspi Towers 300
2600 Roxas Blvd cor. Vito Cruz, Malate Mla.

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On-The-Job Training Courses For Various Areas in Hotel & Fine Dining Restaurant Operations:

- Front Office Operations (Front Desk / Bell Service)
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- Kitchen Operations
  - Banquet
  - Butchery
  - Coffee Shop Operations
  - Cold Section / Salads, etc.
  - Hot Section / Specialty Cooking
  - Hygiene & Sanitation
  - Inventory & Cost Control
  - Pastry Section
- Stewarding Operations (Utility)

Be Qualified to Work in International Hotels, Restaurants & Luxury Cruise Liners and EARN US$$$!!!

ARCHER RESOURCES
Consultancy & Training Center
Unit 2902A, 29/F West Tektite Tower
Phil Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas, Pasig City, MM
Telefax: (632) 6872447
Training Coordinator: Ms. Geraldine & Jenny

A PROGRESSIVE NON LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY IS IN NEED OF GOAL-ORIENTED INDIVIDUALS TO HEAD ITS PROVINCIAL BRANCH IN CEBU AND DAVAO. The following qualifications are required:

- ☐ With pleasing personality
- ☐ Proficient in both written and spoken English
- ☐ Independent and self-motivated
- ☐ Has a Customer-Service-cum-Sales orientation
- ☐ High degree of initiative, flexibility and resourcefulness with a drive for efficiency and results

Please send your application and resumé to:

P.O. BOX 14243
ORTIGAS CENTER POST OFFICE
1605 PASIG CITY

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PROJECT COORDINATOR-TRAINEE
- Male/Female, 2005 Graduates
- Graduate of Architecture preferably from UST & Mapua
- Knowledgeable in CAD, Corel Draw, Adobe Illustrator & Adobe Photoshop

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-TRAINEE
- Female, 2005 Graduates
- Graduate of Psychology, Management and other business related course preferably from PUP
- Computer-literate

Interested applicants may send resumé with latest 2x2 pictures & Temporary Transcript of Record to:

P.O. Box #13802
Ortigas Center Post Office
1605 Pasig City

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eRep^{TM} Positions Available

eReps are PeopleSupport's customer service representatives who provide customer care via email, chat, VoIP, and phone on a 24x7 basis.

eRep REQUIREMENTS

- Excellent English Communication Skills
- Strong Customer Service Skills
- Problem Solving Skills
- Computer and Internet Savvy
- College-educated
- Willing to work shifts

We put a PREMIUM on

Travel eReps
With at least six months GDS experience

Loan Consultants
With background in Financial Services and understanding of basic credit

Candidates must be assigned to a specific account to qualify for the Premium.

Corporate Positions Available

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Reporting Analyst

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Program Director (Mortgage and Loan)
Team Supervisors

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(02) 755-2600
E-mail your resumé to
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

Cebu
Visit for immediate interview
e-Office 1, AsiaTown I.T. Park,
Apas, Lahug, Cebu City
Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm
Call the Cebu HR Hotline at
(032) 234-8222
E-mail your resumé to
cebu@peoplesupport.com

MSH LEAD

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

FIELD COORDINATORS

The Local Enhancement and Development (LEAD) for Health Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), aims to strengthen local government provision and management of family planning (FP) and selected health services (Vitamin A/MCH, TB, and HIV/AIDS), and to improve the policies and financing for these services. The Project will seek to improve the capacity of local government units (LGUs), particularly in cities and municipalities, to meet the needs of their constituents, especially the poor, for FP, TB, MCH, and HIV/AIDS.

MSH is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill in the position of Field Coordinators for Luzon and Visayas. Duty Station is Manila for the Luzon Field Coordinator and Cebu City for the Visayas Coordinator.

Overall Responsibilities: The Field Coordinator shall be responsible for leading and managing the implementation of project plans, programs and activities, including the provision of attendant financial, organizational, administrative, systems, and such other support requirements, in his respective area of operation

Specific Responsibilities:

1. Lead and manage the implementation of the annual project/LGU unit work plan, and the formulation and implementation of area-specific plans, programs, strategies and activities for the successful implementation of the project/LGU Unit work plan;
2. Lead and manage, oversee, coordinate or facilitate the area implementation of specific plans, programs, strategies, or activities formulated or initiated by the LGU Unit and other units in the project either directly or through subcontracting institutions/organizations or such other methods of implementation;
3. Responsible for the monitoring of project deliverables and the impact of technical assistance at the LGU level;
4. Coordinate with other donors and cooperating agencies supporting related programs in the region of assignment and keep partners informed about the status of project activities;
5. Prepare regular and special reports that project management or the Field Operations Manager may require;
6. Perform such other tasks assigned by the Team Leader and the Field Operations Manager.

Desired Qualifications:

1. A graduate of a social, political, or health-related science course;
2. Has knowledge of the area and preferably comes from the area of operation;
3. Has experience in implementing a health project/program related to FP, MCH, HIV/AIDS, TB Control, Vitamin A supplementation and health sector reform;
4. Has political savvy and must be a team player;
5. With skills in: advocacy, training, community organizing, and mobilization of BHWs;
6. Has extensive experience in working with LGUs, civil society groups, and private health service providers;
7. Must be adept in the use of MS windows software (e.g., Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.).

Qualified applicants are requested to send their application letter, with a comprehensive resume showing details of their work experience, academic background, and references not later than February 16, 2005 through any of the following.

Mail Suite 1101 Ma. Natividad Building
470 T. M. Kalaw Avenue corner Cortada Street
Ermita, Manila

Fax (632) 521-0950

CEBU PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE SERVICES

Cebu Pacific International Language Services, Inc. (CPILS, INC.) is a pioneering tutorial services specializing in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to Asian students. We are looking for competent individuals to fill the following positions:

NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

- Between 28 - 40 years old
- Preferably an Australian, American, Canadian and British citizen
- Preferably a holder of Philippine resident visa
- Preferably with bachelor's degree or CELTA/TEFL/TESL certificate
- Must be energetic, outgoing and creative
- Must possess good interpersonal skills

HRD
Cebu Pacific International Language Services
Benedicto Building (formerly Harbor View Hotel)
M.J. Cuenco Avenue Cebu, City Tel. # (032) 416-7637

Or you can send your applications through our e-mail address
eliza_cpils@yahoo.com

or fax your application at 032-416-7638

BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING SYSTEM DISTRIBUTOR

requires candidates to handle the following jobs:

- Marketing / sale of the system and the related services
- Development of an extensive reseller/partner network
- System implementation consultancy for various clients
- Post-sale / post-implementation support service

Qualifications:

- Accountants/accounting graduates with relevant experience
- Working knowledge of MS Access is a requirements / must
- Knowledge of SQL Server or Visual Basic an advantage

Please email resumé to: IOSTeamBooks@lycos.co.uk

IMMEDIATE HIRING!

LIGHTING SALES SPECIALIST

COLLEGE GRADUATE, PREFERABLY
WITH ARCHITECTURE, I.D. OR ENGINEERING BACKGROUND.
LIGHTING / ELECTRICAL SALES EXPERIENCE IS A PLUS
MALE / FEMALE, 20-30 YRS. OLD

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CALL CENTER AGENTS

- Male or Female, bet. 18-30 years old
- College graduate or at least 3rd yr. college level
- With strong drive to succeed

CUSTOMER SUPERVISOR

- Female, between 20-30 years old
- College graduate
- People Oriented
- Charming and with pleasing personality

Submit your resume at:
Halili Complex Stall No. 6
Aurora Blvd. Cubao Quezon City (near NCBA)
Feb. 7-11, 2005 from 9am to 3pm only or 24th Flr. Raffles Corporate Center Emerald Ave. Ortigas Pasig City
Daily from 9am to 4pm
Look for MS. RHEA BALLEZA

VOI /AVAYA PBX ENGINEER

With salary of P130,000 – P250,000 per annum

- Male, 23-30 Years old
- Knowledgeable in Avaya PBX Systems
- Graduate of ECE an advantage
- Willing to work Nights and Weekends
- Outgoing Personality
- Must have the ability to multi-task

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

With salary of P130,000 – P250,000 per annum

- Preferably a graduate of UP, Ateneo or La Salle
- Must have at least one year experience in the field of sales and marketing
- Basic computer knowledge
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Must have flexible working hours

HR OFFICER

With salary of P130,000 – P250,000 per annum

- Must have at least one year experience in the field of HR preferably in a call center
- Must have depth experience in management coaching, organization development and organization effectiveness areas
- Must possess strong leadership skills
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)

ACCOUNTING CLERK

With salary of P91,000 – P200,000 per annum

- Must be an accounting graduate and must have at least one year experience in the same field
- Female, 21 to 27 years old, must be a self-starter
- Basic computer knowledge
- Knowledge in Quicken or Quickbooks an advantage
- Must have strong organizational skills with emphasis on accuracy

Lapanday center, 2263 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City
Taking the MRT, get off at Magallanes Station and go towards Mantrade
(5th bldg. from EDSA) or SEND your resumes with ID picture to: hr@nytelecon.com
or MAIL TO: P.O. Box 892 Dasmariñas Village, Makati

GLOBAL 9, INC.

Friedrich Naumann Stiftung

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation is in need of an:

Accountant/Senior Administrative Officer

The successful applicant will be responsible for all accounting functions and other administrative needs of the Philippine office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. We are looking for an experienced accountant with a successful track record in an international environment. Basic knowledge of German is an advantage.

Furthermore, the successful candidate should:

- hold a Bachelor's Degree in accounting or a related course
- have excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Filipino
- be available for immediate hiring

Applicants should send a cover letter, resumé and recent 2x2 picture to:
MCPO Box 3196
Makati City 1271
Metro Manila

Deadline of application is 11 February 2005.

A FAST GROWING FOOD OUTLET IS NOW OPEN FOR EMPLOYMENT!!!

Franchise Development Officer

- She must be 21 to 26 years of age. College graduate. Good looking with good interpersonal skills. Experience an advantage but not required.

Marketing Assistant

- She must be 21 to 26 years of age. Marketing or Management graduate. Good looking with good interpersonal skills. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

Monitoring Officer

- He must be 21 to 26 years of age. College graduate. Good looking with good interpersonal skills.

Certified Public Accountant

- She must be 21 to 26 years of age. With at least 1 year experience in the same field. With pleasing personality.

Production Crew

- Male/Female ages 18 to 24. At least high school graduate. With pleasing personality.

Apply personally in business attire with resumé from **February 7-11, 2005, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at:

Unit 6 TOPY'S Place, Industria St. Cor. Economia St. Bagumbayan Libis, Quezon City (Beside Optical 808) or call us at: 395-5918 / 395-5919 or Email address: www.spike_laps@yahoo.com

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WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

A **TELEMARKETING COLLECTION SERVICES COMPANY** is looking for honest, hardworking, and highly dedicated personnel to fill up the following positions:

- **TELEMARKETERS**
  – To handle calls to customers and clients
- **OFFICE COLLECTION STAFF**
  – To assist and follow up collection of accounts
- **FIELD MOTORIZED COLLECTION STAFF**
  – To handle field negotiations for collection of accounts

Qualifications:

- Good communication and negotiation skills.
- Preferably with previous experience in telemarketing.
- At least 21 years of age

To the successful candidates, we offer allowances plus unlimited commissions based on actual performance.

Apply now in person with Biodata, picture and references:
ENZI Corporation
10th Floor One San Miguel Ave. Bldg. San Miguel Ave. corner Shaw Blvd.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

IMMEDIATE HIRING

WE are in need of **Account Executives** for our showroom, field/site projects:

Qualifications:

- College graduate preferably Architecture or Interior designer graduate and Landscape Architect
- At least with 2 years experience in Sales and Marketing/Newly or Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply
- Preferably single, 22 to 30 years old, male or female

We are also in need of accountant/bookkeeper preferably accounting graduate, single, female, 21 to 27 years old.

Please apply in person at **Bagno E Ceramica**, 4th Level Shangrila Plaza, Mandaluyong City, 2:00 to 5:00 pm on Monday to Saturday and look for Ms. Jean Dizon and Helen Imperial. Bring your complete credentials.

– Attractive pay package (Salary + Commission)

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Electronics, Marketing and any other business related course
- Computer literate
- With experience in selling Dect phones and office equipment
- Fast learner/to handle dealer sales network
- Not more than 30 years old

Apply in person to:
OLYMPIA PHILIPPINES, INC.
1402-1408 Pres. Quirino Ave. cor South Super Highway
Paco Manila

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Female, single, college graduate, with at least five years related work experience, knowledgeable in office procedures, administrative work, basic bookkeeping & microsoft office, and fluent in oral and written communications. Only qualified applicants may fax bio-data with recent photo to 634-2921 or 633-4282 not later than 11 February 2005.

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THE HIRING PARTNER
16TH FLOOR, STRATA 2000 BLDG.,
EMERALD AVENUE,
ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY.

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WITH YOUNG CHILDREN (ages 0-12 years old)
Who want to raise the IQ and EQ of their child

If you are:

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- Are willing to work part-time presenting to parents with young children.

We offer:

- a FREE seminar on how to develop your child's potential for maximum IQ and EQ.
- a FREE hands-on orientation using our multilevel and multisensory materials.
- an income of P4,000 to 5 to 6 presentations.
- a chance to own the programs for your children at almost NO COST

WE ALSO NEED PEOPLE ABLE TO WORK FULL TIME
INCOME P30,000 up

Bring your resumé with ID picture, January 24-25, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. to:
504 Galleria Corporate Center
EDSA cor. Ortigas, Q.C.
(beside Robinsons Galleria)

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For inquiries, call (02) 842-5265 or submit your resumé at
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Submit your resume, NBI clearance and picture at Suite 1101 Antel Global Corporate Center, #3 Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Look for Ms. Patining

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

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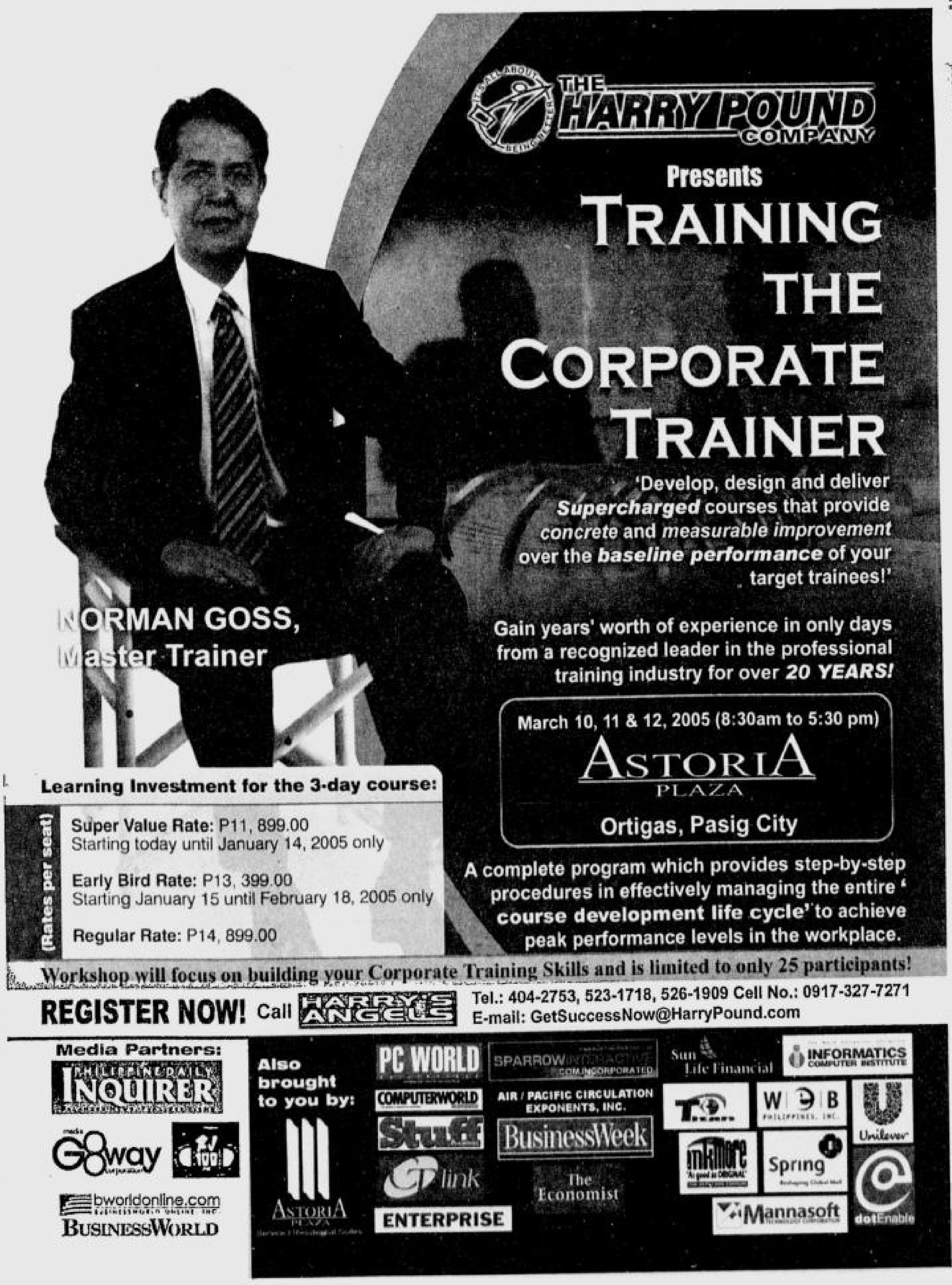
DSWD - KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB Project

SOCIAL MARKETING OFFICER for KALAHI-CIDSS

Qualification Standards:

- Graduate of Mass Communications, Journalism and other related courses
- At least three (3) years experience and track record in communication and advocacy
- At least three (3) years experience in writing, editing and producing communication and advocacy materials
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- Has the ability to identify issues and gaps objectively

Pls. submit your Letter of Application and Resumé to Ms. Janis/Shirley of CPDD on or before February 11, 2005.



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Applicants must be graduates of a 4-year course preferably Computer Science, Math or Engineering. Priority will be given to applicants with knowledge and experience in the following:

- **Programming languages: C/C++, Visual Basic, JAVA, Unix scripting, XML, Active Server Pages (ASP).**
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- **Reporting tools: Actuate, Crystal Reports or MS SQL Reporting Services.**
- **Object-oriented programming: Smalltalk, Visual Works and GEMSTONE.**
- **SAP/ABAP4 - BASIS System and FI (Financial Accounting) module.**
- **EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) - UN EDIFACT, X.12**

Please indicate in your application the code of the position you are applying for. You may send your comprehensive resumé and transcript of records to:

OOCL PHILIPPINES, INC.
Human Resources Department
5th Floor, Dy International Building
1650 San Marcelino corner Malvar Sts., Malate, Manila
Telephone No. 5282724
Fax No. 5282725/5282788

Attention: Cielo Cesar
E-mail Address: cielo.cesar@oocl.com

Global Implementation Manager

World Vision

World Vision International, an international Christian humanitarian organization and works in approx. 100 countries. In support of our Child Sponsorship Program we have developed a support management system, which will be implemented in over 65 countries. We are looking for a mature, self-motivated & experienced individual who can lead the Global Implementation Effort of this product. This person will provide leadership to the Global Implementation Team. This position will be based in Manila and has an initial contract period of 2 years.

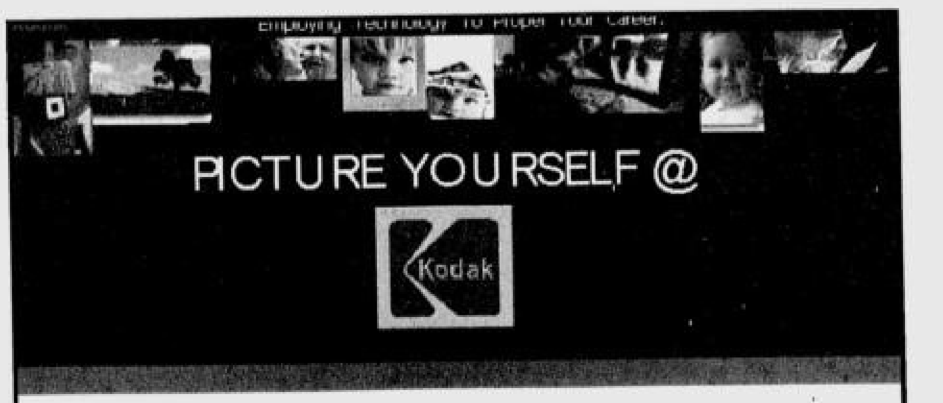
Requirements necessary for the success of this position are:

- Bachelors' degree in Business Management or Information Technology Management with a focus on planning, implementation and monitoring of large-scale projects or equivalent work experience.
- 4+ years of experience at management level positions with emphasis implementing systems, change management, and training.
- Experience in coordinating implementation of large-scale projects, preferably in multiple countries.
- Proven leadership in Global Implementation plans and proven success in project management.
- Strong problem solving skills.
- Extensive travel to various countries is required.
- Strong Christian commitment as evidenced by life and character.
- Proven success in project management and systems implementation is essential.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work as part of a team both directly and virtually.
- Able to effectively communicate with all levels in the organization (verbally and in writing).
- Fluency in English is required; knowledge of Spanish and French is desired.
- Must have a service-oriented mind-set.
- Ability to consult widely, bring together diverse views and facilitate agreement on critical issues.
- Ability to work effectively in a complex, global organization.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Prepare a detailed global implementation.
- To monitor and evaluate the quality and progress of implementation to ensure consistent application of the training, implementation and change management standards.
- Provide problem–solving and supportive facilitation to implementation.
- Manage the Implementation Budget.

Please send your CV to Marisse Lego by email at marisse_lego@wvi.org or by mail at Box 13664 Ortigas Center Post Office, Pasig City 1605. Applications should be received no later than February 12, 2005.



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Now is the exciting time to join us!

Account Managers

We need account managers to be assigned in areas in Greater Manila Area, in North Luzon or in Visayas/Mindanao.

- A graduate of a Business, Industrial Management, Management Engineering or Marketing course
- Has 2-3 years experience in sales, preferably in consumer or IT industry
- Preferably has adequate understanding of the imaging business, products and services and the customers' business
- Creative and dynamic, and with initiative and good independent judgment
- Fluent in both oral and written communications
- With excellent interpersonal skills and can immediately establish rapport with a broad range of people
- Willing to travel or be based anywhere in the Philippines

Service Engineers

We need service engineers to be assigned in Greater Manila Area or in Visayas/Mindanao area.

- Has a degree in Computer, Electrical or Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Knowledgeable in computers, both software (Windows applications, particularly image enhancing programs) and hardware (networking and digital peripherals)
- With excellent interpersonal skills and can immediately establish rapport with a broad range of people
- Fluent both in oral and written communications
- Analytical, resourceful and flexible
- Willing to travel or be based anywhere in the Philippines
- Fresh graduates may apply

Send your comprehensive resumé, transcript of records
. and 2x2 Kodak picture to:

KODAK PHILIPPINES, LTD.
Human Resources Department
2247 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

Deadline of submission of applications will be on February 10, 2005.

FT
FINANCIAL TIMES
Electronic Publishing

The *FINANCIAL TIMES*, one of the world's top sources of business news and information, is expanding its Manila operations and requires:

INFORMATION EDITORS

Successful applicants will be responsible for data conversion and producing content for general and business news databases. He/she must meet the following criteria:

- Be highly skilled in Adobe Acrobat, Quark Express and other desktop publishing software packages
- Had exposure to a computerized newspaper operation
- Excellent comprehension skills and a high level of attention to detail
- Able to work on variable shift schedule including weekends and holidays as required
- Have above-average English writing skills and a working knowledge of XML
- Able to meet tight production deadlines
- Graduate of any four- or five-year course
- Previous experience working for a multinational company

Qualified applicants should post their detailed resumé, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than Friday, February 11, to **The HR & Administration Manager** at the following address:

Financial Times Electronic Publishing Philippines, Inc.
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Incomplete application will not be processed
Visit our website www.ft.com

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Ayala Avenue cor Paseo de Roxas
Makati City
or **via email** to
manila@aaamador.com.ph

The Leader in Amusement Rides Manufacturing urgently needs the following personnel to compliment its expansion:

COST ACCOUNTANT

- M or F at least 21 years old
- Accountancy graduate & computer literate
- Licensed CPA or at least has taken the review/board.
- At least 2 years related experience an advantage
- Fast Learner & Hardworking

BOOKKEEPER

- M or F at least 21 years old
- Accountancy graduate & computer literate
- At least 1 year related experience an advantage
- Fast Learner & Hardworking

WOOD CARVER/MOULD MAKER

- Male, at least 21 years old
- At least 1 year related experience
- Fast Learner & Creative

DESIGNER

- M or F at least 21 years old
- Degree in Architecture/Interior Design
- Proficient in CAD/3D Max/Corel/Photoshop/MS Office
- Knows how to prepare cost estimates
- At least 2 years experience in exhibit companies an added advantage

Please submit updated resumé,
Transcript of Records & Photo to:
WESTECH INTERNATIONAL PHILS., INC.
No. 2 Lanete Street corner Narig Street,
Veteran's Village
Project 7, Quezon City • Telephone: 372-8701 to 03

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Qualifications:

- A graduate of Psychology/ Behavioral Science/ Human Resource Management, preferably with a Masters Degree (Industrial Psychology)
- Minimum of 5 years experience as HR Manager
- Direct Experience with Recruitment & Selection, Compensation Plans, Policy Formulation, Rewards & Recognition, Performance Management, Job Evaluation, Salary Survey & Structuring, Merit Systems & Bonus Schemes, Employee & Industrial Relations, Training & Organizational Development.
- Knowledge of labor laws, testing instruments pertaining to recruitment, payroll & compensation principles, training principles and staffing & forecasting principles based on historical trends
- Highly dynamic, with strong leadership, organizational and people management skills
- Ability to engage with personnel across levels of the organizations

Please send your résumé to **contactus@pathfindertechnologysolutions.com**

‘Everything’s right at work except …

From page 10

Our boss can ignore or discipline us. He can give us routine tasks that can bore and make us feel stupid. He can send us to or approve our participation in training programs that will hone our skills or enable us to learn new skills. He can bring us to meetings and conferences that will enable us to develop or expand our network.

He has the power to approve or disapprove our requests for data, equipment and materials so that we can do our work well or better. He is the one who measures if we are doing the right thing. He is the one who decides what is “right” and “important” in our tasks. If we do work that our boss doesn't need, value or care about, even if we think we have done it brilliantly, it doesn’t count as good work.

In the boss’ shoes

Unfair? Wait until you become a boss yourself and you have responsibilities, accountabilities and targets to meet. Since he is responsible and accountable for the work of an entire section or department, your boss has certain targets according to his own boss' standards and expectations. He knows the standards and expects every one to contribute towards meeting the targets—in quality, quantity, cost effectiveness and timeliness.

You should observe his response and reactions to your and to others’ work and behaviors. Be sensitive as to what pleases or displeases him; what he approves or disapproves; what delights and angers him. You must know his work habits, his “sore spots” (i.e., what makes him angry all the time) and his “soft spots” (i.e., what makes him soften up to another person immediately). As an example, my “sore spot” as a boss is an employee telling me a lie to make *palusot* when his misbehavior has already been discovered. My “soft spot” is when an employee initiates telling me the “bad news” or admits mistakes and failures.

Like your boss

You should learn to like your boss so that you can work well with him to produce the right results that will please him. If he criticizes your work unfairly, take courage and respond like this: “Sir, I will appreciate it if you can tell me how you want it done so that I won't waste your time next time. May I see a sample, Sir?”

If he scolds you in front of others, keep silent and have the courage to give him an I-message feedback, verbally or in writing, as soon as possible. Go to him in the privacy of his room and say: “I felt embarrassed, Sir, when you shouted at me yesterday in front of the others. You can shout at me, Sir, but please do it in the privacy of your office.” Difficult? It might be because you are not used to it. The good news is: even if your boss does not apologize to you, he will secretly admire you for your courage, your self-confidence in giving him feedback and for your professionalism.

One thing to avoid is for you and your colleague to spend your time during break talking against your boss or using the e-mail to gossip or badmouth him. Doing this will only reinforce your and others' negative perception of him. Negative perceptions will lead to avoidance behaviors (such as seeking a transfer to another section or department or resigning) or to aggressive and hostile behaviors (such as rebelliousness and badmouthing).

Three steps

I suggest three steps you can take to improve your relationship with your boss. The first step is to change your perception of him so that you look at him positively. Spend your free time discovering positive things about your boss. Such as, what were his achievements that led to his promotion to his present position? What positive qualities does he have that his own boss and his friends like about him? Get to know him better by talking casually to people who know him. Share your discoveries with your colleagues. In the course of your research, you may even discover things that would explain your boss' negative behaviors. In the process you develop compassion for him.

The second step is for you to exert your utmost to do an outstanding job. It will be difficult for him not to like you or to let you go. This is also good for your self-esteem. If he doesn’t say anything, ask for feedback. An example, “Sir, what do you think of the report I submitted to you? Is there anything in it you want me to improve?” Some bosses find it difficult to praise or compliment their subordinates. They are silent when they like your work; they express their disapproval when they don't like it. Be guided by your boss' uniqueness. Try not to compare him with other bosses but accept him for what he is.

The third step is to cooperate with him. Remember that you are there to contribute to his success, which, in turn, contributes to your company's success.

In all the above, pray to God for your boss' healing and conversion.

If you've done all these and he is still mean to you, then go to HR for a possible lateral transfer. You can give as your reason your desire to change career for a broader exposure to the business. I again caution against criticizing or bad mouthing your boss. God bless you.

(*Ms Santamaria is president of Career Systems Inc., a leading career development consultancy company. E-mail feedback to* carsys@qinet.net *or to* peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.)

How to network online for your job and career

From page 10

sites for online networking?

SC: The best five sites are different for any two people, because every one’s needs are different, and some of the best sites serve a niche. Three where everybody should maintain a basic presence are Ryze, Ecademy, and LinkedIn. Also look at Meetup for topical local meetings, and find relevant groups on Yahoo Groups. And Spoke is useful for finding connections to specific people.

WW: Any final thoughts?

SA: Online networking is a hot trend right now, but it’s been going on in the tech community for years, even if it didn't have a name. In a couple of years, we won’t even talk about it as a separate thing—it will just be part of what everybody does in business. Those who start now are the ones who’ll benefit most as that happens.

Use these resources and you’ll always have people willing to help you get to a higher office. Next time we’ll explore your online options if you think a former employer is giving you an unfair reference.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which best describes your feelings about online networking?

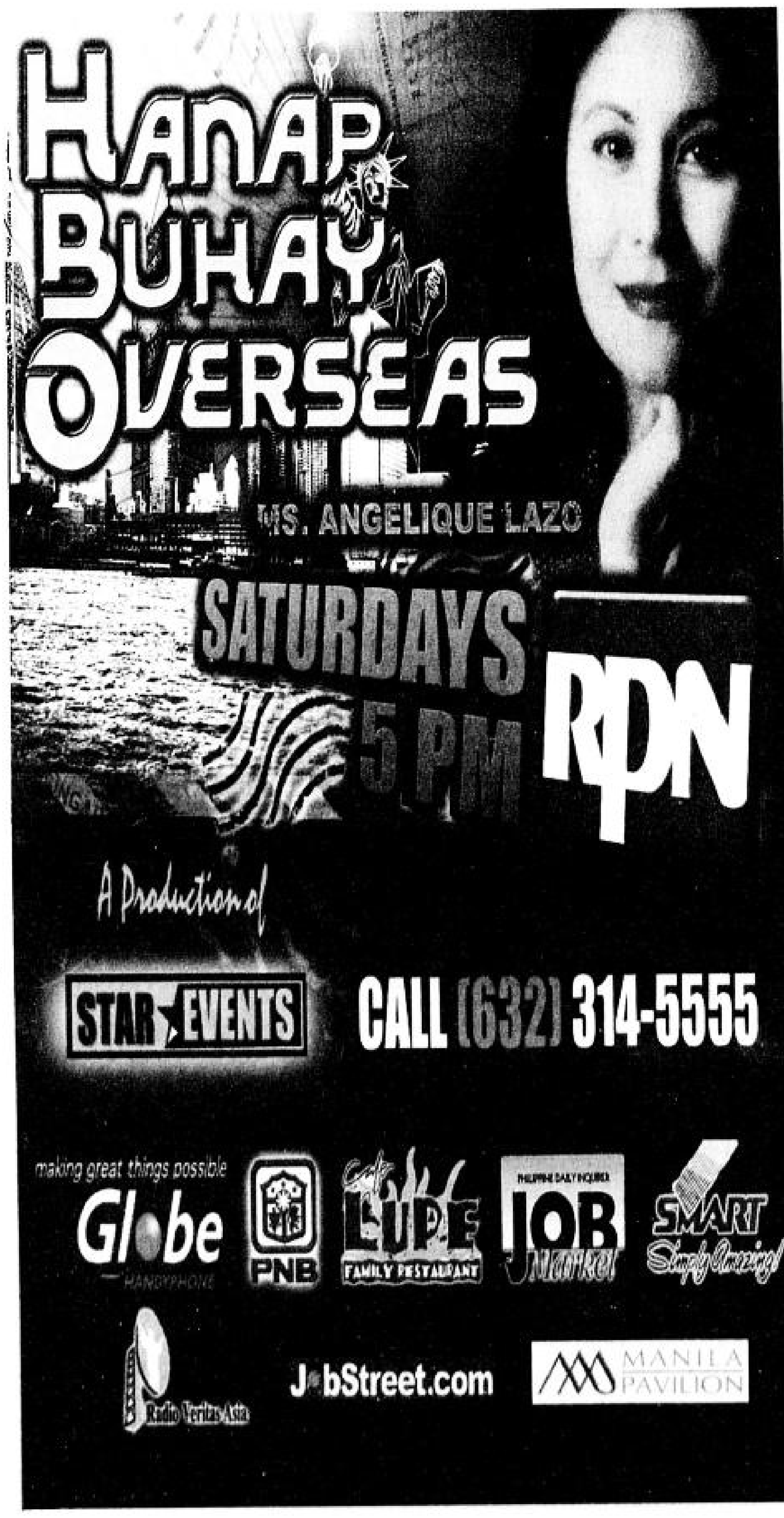
—I don’t even have time to do my job, 17.6 percent

—A priority, 29.4 percent

—If I have time, 52.9 percent

(*Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

My Trabaho Match
Submit your resumés online.
www.mytrabaho.com



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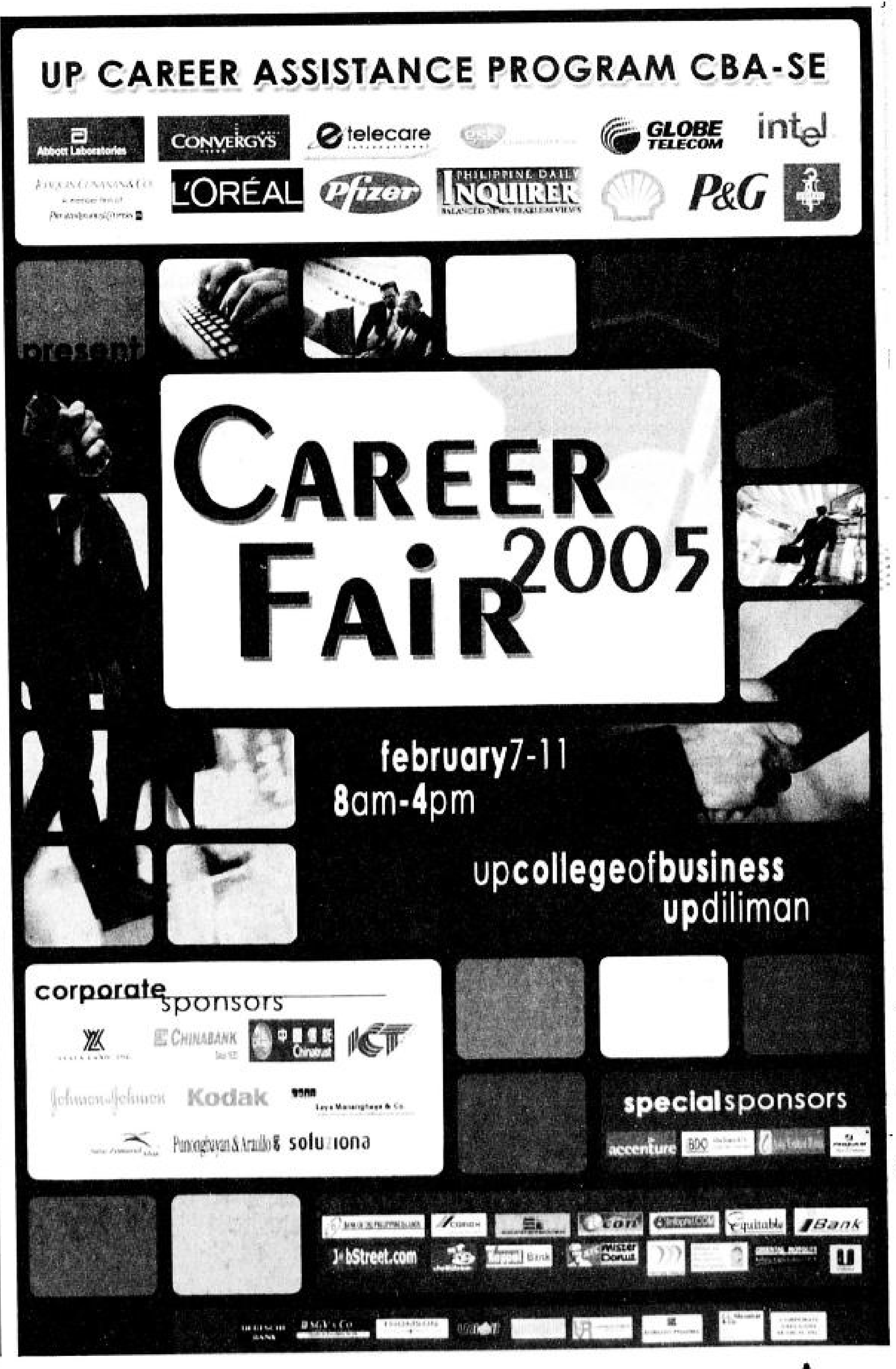

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What do jobseekers look for?

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse. The results of this "pulse" will be published the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month. Winners from respondents of last month's survey are **Cherrylene Rodriguez** and **Delio Ando Dapanas** (please contact Ateneo CORD to claim your prizes).

1. How long have you been looking for a job? ______________________

2. What factors do you consider when applying? Check as many as you can.

____ a. Company name
____ b. Industry type
____ c. Company type (i.e. multinational, government, family business)
____ d. Position category
____ e. Location
____ f. Work schedule
____ g. Compensation
____ h. Part-time/ full-time
____ i. Others: ______________

3. What methods have you used during job search? Check as many as you can.

____ a. Newspaper job ads
____ b. TV and radio ads
____ c. Phone inquiries
____ d.Web-based job search
____ e. Posting resumé on the web site
____ f. Hand-carry resumé to various companies
____ g. Job fairs
____ h. Recruitment agencies
____ i. Networking
____ Others: ______________

4. How many companies have you applied to? ______________________

5. Of all the companies you have applied to, give the percentage of those that:

____ Give feedback
____ Give feedback when I follow- up
____ No feedback

6. Approximately, how long (in days) do these organizations respond to your initial application? ________

7. When companies respond to your initial application, what processes do you go through next? Please check all that apply.

____ a. Interviews
____ b. Panel interview
____ c. Assessment centers
____ d. In- basket exercises
____ e. Written exams
____ f. Physical exams
____ g. Others: ____________

Name: ______________________
Gender________ Age: ____ Civil Status: __________
Nature of Job: ______________________
Company Name: ______________________
Industry: ______________________
Tel./Mobile/E-mail: ______________________

Mail or fax this form or email/text your answers to:
People at Work Pulse
Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development
2nd Floor, Hoffner Bldg., Social Development Complex
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.
Fax no. (632) 426-6065, E-mail: ateneocord@admu.edu.ph.

Or text answers to (0920) 831-9522. Write: topic 1. (answer), 2. (answer), etc. name, gender, status, position, company, address, contact numbers or e-mail.

Be part of People at Work

WOULD you like to be part of a family that can help you in your career growth and development? Join the People at Work community where members support each other in the quest for a better career and life. People at Work columnists, writers and editorial staff will also be part of this group to lend you a helping hand. Working professionals, jobseekers, human resource executives and practitioners, managers, trainers, consultants and all others willing to share and help are welcome to join. Members will have access to updates and discounts on People at Work events, advice from People at Work columnists and writers and other members, chat schedules with members and "eyeball" events. To join, send your name, gender, civil status, age, contact number, e-mail address and company name and position title (if applicable) to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph or fax to tel. no. (632) 938-2092 or text to 02-937-0376 from Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

'My Trabaho Match'...

From page 10

quest for a better life.

Partner companies

The five companies working together to make "My Trabaho Match" a reality are:

- Philippine Daily Inquirer. The nation's most widely circulated newspaper broadsheet. As the publisher of Job Market where hundreds of employers advertise their job vacancies, Inquirer seeks to provide added value to its jobseekers/readers through the "My Trabaho" public service program.
- Manila Broadcasting Company. It manages dzRH, the number one AM radio station in Manila, Mega Manila and nationwide based on the latest surveys. As part of its Operation Tulong, its multi-awarded public service program, dzRH hopes to provide its listeners a means to uplift their lives through the "My Trabaho" public service program.
- STI. Its commitment to its students, providing them education to employment services, finds fulfillment in the "My Trabaho" public service program.
- Quantum X. It is one of the most creative software developers and the web owner of www.workabroad.ph, a website service for those wanting to work abroad. It is generously sharing its technology as part of its corporate social responsibility to "My Trabaho Match."
- Optimus Innovations, Inc., the pioneer in popular learning, a company which seeks to provide world class learning at popular prices for people at work and jobseekers through popular learning events, training programs and mass media. Its passion to serve the working public resulted in its conceptualization of the "My Trabaho" program.

First phase

The prequel of "My Trabaho Match" is "My Trabaho Dream" which helps beneficiaries find their dream jobs by providing them with career planning, coaching and personality development training services. Thirty partial beneficiaries are selected every quarter by drawing at random from the applications sent to "My Trabaho." The 30 beneficiaries are given free training on career planning for two days. Out of the 30, 10 full beneficiaries are selected by career counselors and given the following additional benefits: Job coaching sessions for two months, corporate outfits, makeover by a reputable grooming salon, free two-day training on how to prepare a resumé and pass a job interview, and cash of P5,000. The stories of beneficiaries who have successfully found their dream jobs through this program attest to the power of motivation and a network of support.

How to join

Employers who wish to participate in the "My Trabaho" program as part of their corporate social responsibility can help in various ways: they can provide benefits so that more beneficiaries can be selected, they can lend their managerial expertise in the job coaching program, they can send in donations to enable the program to expand. Or by simply signing up as a subscriber to the "My Trabaho Match" online resumé databank.

Through the tandem service "My Trabaho Dream" and "My Trabaho Match," the proponents aim to help our government and our people build a better and stronger nation.

Unemployment and underemployment are among the biggest problems our country faces. With everyone's support, hopefully, "My Trabaho" can break down the barriers to employment.

(For more info on the program, call tel. no. 937-0376 or e-mail info@mytrabaho.com.*)*

BROOKSLAKE GARMENT MFG. CORP.
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Tel. # 443-43-21 / 443-40-50
WANTED:
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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

'Everything's right at work except my boss!'

By Josie O. Santamaria

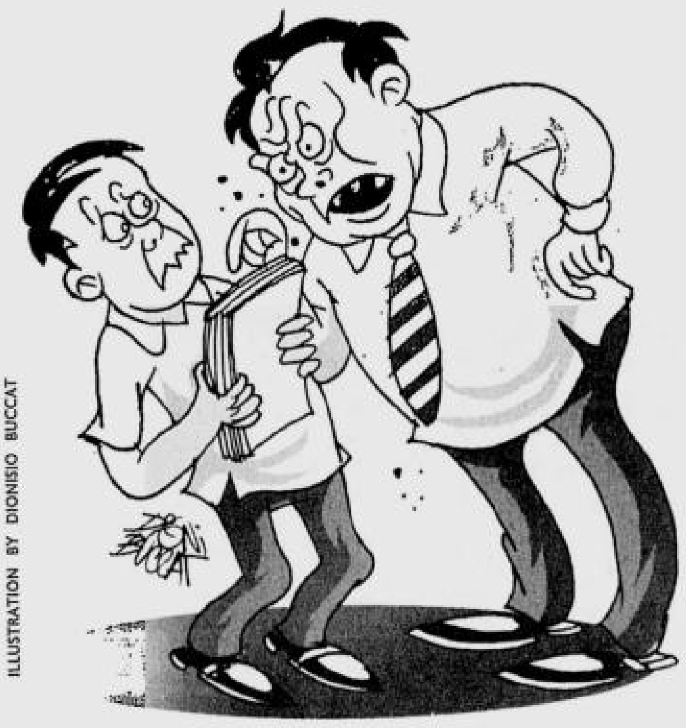


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

I AM AN AVID reader of the career advice featured in the Sunday Inquirer. Thank you very much for sharing your wisdom with your readers. My problem is: it seems I cannot have everything! I have the right job and the right career. I am in the right company but I don't have the right boss. My boss is a perfectionist, does not listen to suggestions from his subordinates and gets angry when we don't do things according to his expectations and standards. Sometimes, he scolds us in public within the hearing of other people. We are so afraid of him so we don't approach him. Some of his subordinates had resigned from the company because of his bad character. I don't want to resign from the company because it is the ideal one for me. I want to transfer to another department but I don't have the skills required by other jobs. What shall I do?

Mr. Unhappy

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

I can understand your dilemma, which leads to your confusion. You are afraid of your boss and you want to get away from him. But you don't want to resign because you like your job and your company. It's very difficult to get a good job in a good company nowadays. Transferring to another department may not be easy because you will need a good reason. Telling the truth will not serve your purpose and may even put you in a bad light.

You cannot make your boss change his ways; only his superiors can, by coaching and counseling him. On your part, there are things you can do to influence his behavioral change. All these, however, depend on you.

Since you don't want to leave the company, the best thing to do is to find ways to like your boss. Yes, you must learn to like him so that you can work well with him. When you make an effort to do this, you are improving your character and personality, and enhancing your emotional intelligence or your EQ.

Number one customer

Let me tell you why and how. Your boss is your number one customer. Every employee has an internal customer. Some employees have both external and internal customers. A customer is the person we aim to please and whose needs we satisfy because he or she is the reason why we have a job. If you look at your boss in this way, you will understand why you must know his standards and his expectations so that you can take steps to satisfy and meet them.

I wrote a series of articles in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on "Managing your career to the top" in July 2003 where I emphasized that relating positively with the boss is a "must" for career advancement. Whether we like it or not, our boss has power over us. He appraises and evaluates our performance; he can recommend our merit increase, he gives us job assignments that can make use our skills and talents, and make us visible to top management. He recommends our promotion; he can freeze us or fire us. He can enhance our career in the organization or destroy it.

EVERYTHING/P.8

How to network online for your job and career

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR Readers: The Dean presidential campaign is history, but its use of the Internet to bring people together lives on. And the best part, these tools are available to everyone. Take Scott Allen, he's found his last job, hired people and initiated a corporate merger online. He's co-author of "The Five Keys to Building Business Relationships Online" (available via OnlineBusinessNetworks.com). We talked to him about online networking.

WW: How can the Net help us to network?

SA: Online networking serves all the same purposes as face-to-face networking; it's great for business development, market research, publicity, and knowledge sharing. The greatest value is the easy access to expertise, usually for free.

WW: Can you give a real-world success story?

SA: I had a prospective customer who wouldn't proceed until they found a new web designer. I went on Ryze and found 100 web designers in their area, which I scanned through until I found one who was a friend of a friend. I put them in touch and they made a deal, which cleared the roadblock for my deal. The fact that I could identify the right person, 1,600 miles away, and make a trusted referral, made the deal for me. And it took me 15 minutes.

WW: What are a few do's and don'ts?

SA: Be human; remember you're connecting with people not faceless companies. Don't say anything to someone online that you wouldn't say to their face. Be focused; online networking can grow out of control very quickly. Stick to the places and people that add value to your life and work. Be visible; have a web site, weblog and profiles in several communities. Don't expect people to hunt for you. Be prepared; don't make more work for yourself by retyping the same things over and over. Be sensitive to other people's time; don't send an e-mail or post a message unless it creates value for both you and the people who'll read it.

WW: What are the top

HOWP.8

'My Trabaho Match' unlocks doors to employment

By Regina Galang Reyes

JOBS—this is the passionate desire of three million Filipinos who have no work. A well-paying job—this is the dream of millions of Filipinos who toil at wages not enough to keep bone and flesh together, much less feed their families.

Unemployed and underemployed Filipinos are groping in the dark of poverty, looking for a glimmer of hope for a better future, looking for the key that will unlock the doors of opportunity and wishing that one day, the door of the prosperous work world will open for them.

But at the other side of the door, in the world of commerce and industry, jobs abound. While millions are looking for gainful employment, employers and recruitment personnel complain that it is very hard to get qualified candidates to fill their vacancies. Often, it takes months before they are able to hire the people they urgently need.

The unemployed and underemployed on one side of the door. Employers and recruiters on the other. How can the door be unlocked for them to meet?

To address this dilemma, "My Trabaho Match" will be launched on Feb. 10, through the efforts of five companies: two media giants, one globally oriented school, one highly creative software developer and one innovative learning company.

Companion program

"My Trabaho Match" is a public service program that helps jobseekers and people at work find their dream jobs and develop globally competitive competencies. It is a companion program to "My Trabaho Dream," which was launched last March 24, 2004 by Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Broadcasting Company and Optimus Innovations, Inc.

"My Trabaho Match" provides an online resumé databank service that brings jobseekers within reach of prospective employers with a click of a mouse. Through the web site, www.mytrabaho.com, jobseekers can encode their resumés online, which can be accessed by employers, making job hunting and employee search faster, easier and more convenient.

Job hunters who do not have access to a computer may also send or drop their resumés at designated drop-off centers nationwide. These include more than 100 STI campuses, Philipppine Daily Inquirer branches, and the dzRH and Optimus offices.

Through an extensive print and radio campaign, "My Trabaho Match" hopes to put together employers and jobseekers in this program. And through stories in Philippine Daily Inquirer's People at Work section and interviews on "My Trabaho at dzRH" produced by Optimus aired every Wednesday from 3 p.m to 4 p.m., "My Trabaho" will provide inspiration and a guide to jobseekers and people at work in their

MYTRABAHO/P.9

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

FIVE companies band together to bring "My Trabaho Match" to the public. Signing for their companies are: (seated from left) Quantum X managing partner Robert John Oh, STI executive vice president Peter Fernandez, Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Optimus Innovations Inc. chair Juan "Babs" Reyes, Jr., and Manila Broadcasting Company president Ruperto Nicdao, Jr. Witnessing the signing are (standing from left): Optimus consultant Cat Sugay, STI vice president Cesar Herrera, STI public affairs head Restituto Bundoc, dzRH sales director Jose Ma. Parroco, Inquirer SVP for marketing Rene Reinoso, and Optimus Innovations, Inc. president Reggie Reyes.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Salt or what?

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

FUNNY that sweat, the "juice" of labor, tastes salty. (I say "juice" to ride on the message in jeepney posters that say "*Katas ng* Saudi"). There is definitely a connection, no matter how dim it appears, between work and being "salt of the earth." We sweat when we work (Yes, yes, only horses "sweat," humans "perspire," and ladies "glow," yuck!). Sweat tastes salty. And by our work we become either "salt of the earth" or something else. I don't mean to be simplistic about it but take away everything—our concepts of glamour or glory that we attach to our work—and you're left with a bare standard that will measure the value of your work to humanity. Salt preserves. Rust corrupts. Is your work salt, or rust?

Work is the activity from which you make a living. Some types of work are obviously "rust": drug pushing, prostitution, abortion, pornography, etc. Some are "salt": teaching, nursing, farming, medicine, consecrated ministries, etc. The "rust" types destroy life by corrupting man—there's no doubt about that, and that's precisely why they're illegal—but it doesn't follow that the "salt" types are their opposites. By intent, the "salt" types are meant to preserve life and foster growth, but owing to the weakness of human nature, even they are not impervious to corruption. Teachers can teach wrong values, nurses can assist suicides, farmers can kill the land, doctors can perform abortions, and priests can do all the foregoing.

Any job can be either "salt" or "rust" depending on the worker's choice. Ultimately, there are no gray areas about it—you either commit to be a force for life and growth, as Jesus did, or get eaten up by the rusty system. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Gospel: Mt. 5: 13-16

"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."

A taste for work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

A LOT of businesses and companies cater to the human sense of taste—good, delicious, exhilarating ... taste—which humans go crazy about and spend much money on. Big cash is invested in food, drinks, cigarettes, even drugs (prohibited ones), which could bring great satisfaction to man's taste. Imagine when the sense of taste no longer exists in everyone, millions of people in the "taste" businesses and products would lose their jobs and an economic disaster would occur. Fortunately, human nature is such that the sense of taste lasts a lifetime. It would be most interesting, however, if everyone could acquire a different kind of "taste," that which will make one go crazy not over food or drink but for working and working hard. What would happen if everyone hungers and thirsts for work?

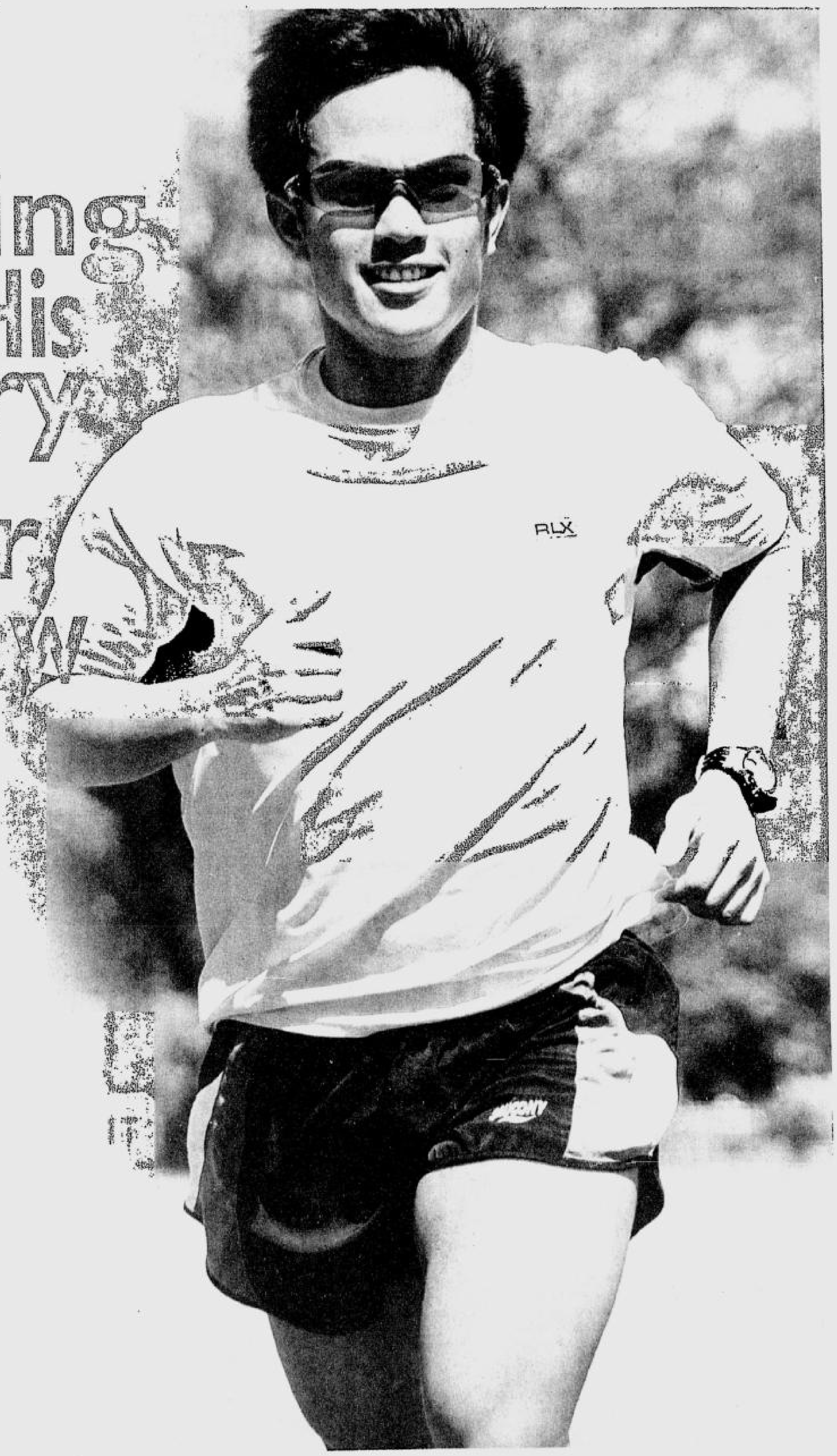
I think the world and particularly the workplace would become a "pleasurable and exciting" place to live in. There would be "life" in every area where everyone works "with gusto." The workplace would be somewhere everyone desires to be, like some famous restaurants where people would flock and enjoy eating, drinking and being in company of friends and loved ones. Coworkers, supervisors, and every staff would become "friends and loved ones" whose presence one would desire.

Becoming "the salt of the earth" is adopting the mind and heart of Jesus, which gives everyone a greater and complete perspective, and understanding of what life and work are. One who thinks and feels like Jesus acquires that new sense of "taste," which makes the work palatable and the workplace desirable. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
February 6, 2005

Nonoy Jopson

Running from His History to A Better Tomorrow



His family history is so entwined with the country's violent politics that Nonoy Jopson decided to take the road less traveled. But by celebrating his 30th birthday with an 800-km run for the environment from Manila to Sagada to Baguio, the three-time triathlon champ might well be on his way to making history of another kind

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Photograph by Val Handumon

NONOY Jopson hates his baptismal name. "Every time I go to sports events abroad and present my passport, I cringe," confesses this three-time national triathlon champ.

Liberato Labrador Celnan Jopson may not sound so bad, but it is the name's association with his family history that gets to Nonoy. "I am cursed with the political conviction of my parents," he says wryly of his name, that literally translates to "the worker liberates."

His parents just happen to be Edgar Jopson ("Edjop"), a student activist of the '70s' First Quarter Storm era who was killed by the Marcos military in 1982. Edjop's widow, Gloria Joy who herself joined the Left underground, later married Romulo Kintanar ("*Ka* Rolly"), a former commander of the communist New People's Army. Kintanar was gunned down by his former comrades in 2003 for allegedly being a government agent. Edjop's sister and Nonoy's aunt Bobbie was married to former urban guerrilla leader, Filemon "Popoy" Lagman, who was ambushed by still unidentified gunmen in 2001.

"*Grabe ang* history *ng* violence in my family," he says. "Fortunately, it hasn't happened in sports, my chosen field," says this Interdisciplinary Studies graduate of the Ateneo.

This eldest of three children was only 7 when his "Tats" (for *tatay*, father) bled to death after being cornered by soldiers in a Davao safehouse on September 20, 1982. But Nonoy has very vivid memories of the man who once led the moderate National Union of Students in the Philippines (NUSP) and was a Ten Outstanding Young Man (TOYM) awardee in 1970.

"We lived in Manila until I was 4," he recounts. "Tats was a labor organizer." When Edjop was arrested in 1979, so too were

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Her Colorful Road to Beauty
by Patricia Barcelon, *p.4*

My Sister, My Teacher
by Behn Cervante

A Champion Even Out of the Water
by Ross Harper Alonso,

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Nonoy ...from page 1

Nonoy and his *yaya*. His mother escaped arrest because she happened to be giving birth to her second child, daughter Scarlet Victoria. Recounts Nonoy: "I remember being promised ice cream by soldiers if I told them the names of my family members." That bugged him for a long time, he adds. "I felt really guilty, although the names were mostly aliases. I myself changed names and schools every year until Tats died."

Although Edjop would explain to his only son the concept of social struggle, "how they're trying to change society and how all this sacrifice would be worth it," what Nonoy recalls best were the fun times they had. "I remember going up to Mt. Apo in Davao in so-called 'white areas' where we would bathe in springs, roll dough in the shape of guns or people, toss these in a vat of hot oil, and later eat them. It was fun!"

He recalls how his Tats always found time to teach him stuff. "He was a good teacher. Once he dissected a live frog and showed me its innards. Then he sewed it up and set it free," he narrates. "Another time he gave me P20 and took me to a bank where he had the bill changed to 25-centavo coins. Then we played store using those coins. It was a fun way to learn how to count." His Tats also took him to a fire station and the Coca Cola bottling plant, says Nonoy. "And all these while he was in the thick of doing revolutionary work for the Leftist movement!" he adds.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On holiday with wife and fellow athlete Amale

"Red victory"

It was too bad that his sisters never got to know their Tats, says Nonoy of Scarlet Victoria (red victory) and Teresa Lorena (named after martyred cadre Lorena Barros and Teresa Magbanua, a woman general in the 1896 Philippine revolution). The two were 4 years and three months old, respectively, when their father died. When their mother opted to stay underground, the siblings lived with their paternal grandparents, who owned a bustling grocery in Sampaloc. In fact, Edjop was once derided as a "mere son of a grocer" by an incensed Marcos when the brash student leader demanded that he put in black and white his promise not to seek a third term. Marcos declared martial law shortly after to perpetuate his stay in power.

Nonoy was 14 when his mother remarried. He recounts: "I felt so happy for Nanay when she said she was seeing someone, especially when I learned it was *Tito* Rolly." He had met Kintanar in the underground in Davao and would play with his kids, he recalls. "I found him very exciting when I was young," he adds. Where Tats was studious, his *Tito* Rolly was adventurous. "He would take me for rides on his motorcyle, teach me how to do tumbling stunts like a guerilla—complete with a stick that was supposed to be a gun—and then we'd go airgun shooting. He used to be the commander of an NPA unit so he was very strong. His wife died when the boat she was riding capsized. They never found her body." He was even a witness to his mother's and stepfather's revolutionary wedding in a Tagaytay safehouse, adds Nonoy.

His mother gave birth to his stepbrother Gabby in 1992, he says. "*Tito* Rolly was a very good and doting father to Gabby and very sweet to my mom. He was a good provider and very generous with his car and resources, but we never got a chance to deepen our relationship." The former NPA commander seemed to have a lot on his mind, adds Nonoy. "He would be quiet and introspective a lot of times, especially after the split within the movement."

Kintanar's death and the Left's admission that they did it crystallized his reservations about the movement, says Nonoy. "I really felt bad about *Tito* Rolly's death because he and my mother offered their youth and the best years of their life to the movement, and look what they did."

He had attended their indoctrination sessions but never got recruited, he says. "In a way I admire them for their ideology, their desire to change things and make a difference which, to me, is very Christian. But their means of achieving this is not something I agree with. Not that I'm blaming my parents. Armed struggle was the only means available to them at that time."

But his parents' involvement did affect their family life, Nonoy admits. "I guess I resented that. I won't ever do that to my kids. I miss the family interaction."

Fortunately, there was his Uncle Jeng, his father's only brother in a brood that included 10 sisters. "He was only five years older than me so I'd hang around him. I was his water boy when he became national triathlon champion in 1989. Even before that, we were teammates in swimming at the Army Navy Club, with Akiko Thomson."

He wasn't that good in swimming, says Nonoy. "Height is important, the length of your limbs, and I'm just 5'3". Swimming can also be very boring, he adds. "You see nothing but the t-lines underwater." Being a triathlete like his Uncle Jeng meant he would gain two other sports—running and biking—without letting go of swimming completely, says this Ateneo Varsity swimmer in high school. "I enjoyed the freedom of biking in my second-hand 10-speed bike and we'd go up to Caliraya, Tagaytay and Real, Quezon."

Nonoy joined his first triathlon when he was barely 15, landing second to a 28-year-old guy who was with the US Army. After years of training, he became national triathlon champion for the years 1994-1996 and 1998. He currently holds the Philippine record for the triathlon: two hours, one minute and four seconds for a total of 51.5 kms (10-km for running, 1.5 km for swimming and 40 kms for biking) at the 1998 Asian championship in Singapore. He is also considered the Philippines' Enduraman, for having swum 3.8 km, biked 180 kms, and run 42.5 km in 11 hours and 24 minutes in Subic in 2003. Along the way, he met and married fellow athlete Amale Mendezona, a magna cum laude Psychology graduate from the Ateneo who fondly calls him "LL Cool J." The couple hopes to have a child soon.

Family business

When he's not joining sports competitions, Nonoy helps out in the family business in Cebu, a security agency founded by his *Tito* Rolly to help out former rebels. If he has been low key all this time, it was because he didn't see sports as a platform for causes, he says. "Sports was my personal comfort zone. People are given certain gifts so I just try to make the best of what I have."

But he has since changed his mind. From February 16 to 24, Nonoy and Running Priest Fr. Robert Reyes will be biking and running from Manila to Sagada and then down to Baguio, a distance of approximately 800 km, in a historic bike-run they describe as PAdYAK, which stands for *Payak at Dalisay na Buhay Alay sa Kalikasan* (A pure and simple lifestyle for nature).

The run, says Nonoy, "is a celebration of both their birthdays (he turns 30 on Feb. 16 while Fr. Robert marks his 50th year on Feb. 24), and a paean to a simple and environmentally-friendly lifestyle. It is also, says the priest, a tribute to his brother, who died of cancer in December last year.

Teaming up with Fr. Robert was a case of pure synergy, says Nonoy. "*Wala siyang anak, ako naman walang tatay.* (he has no child, I have no father.)" (He met the Running Priest by chance at the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nonay Gloria Jopson, "on a rare break," visiting a crocodile farm, according to son Nonoy

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GREAT BOWLS OF PASTA Italianni's introduces Great Bowls of Pasta with the new Red Pesto Salmon, Shrimp Primavera, 3-Meat Ravioli and Fusilli Piemonte available at its branches in Glorietta 4, SM City Bicutan and Alabang Town Center. You can order featured wines from the Sea Ridge Coastal Winery to go with the pasta of your choice at Italianni's Libis, Greenhills and Greenbelt. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Para Los Muertos

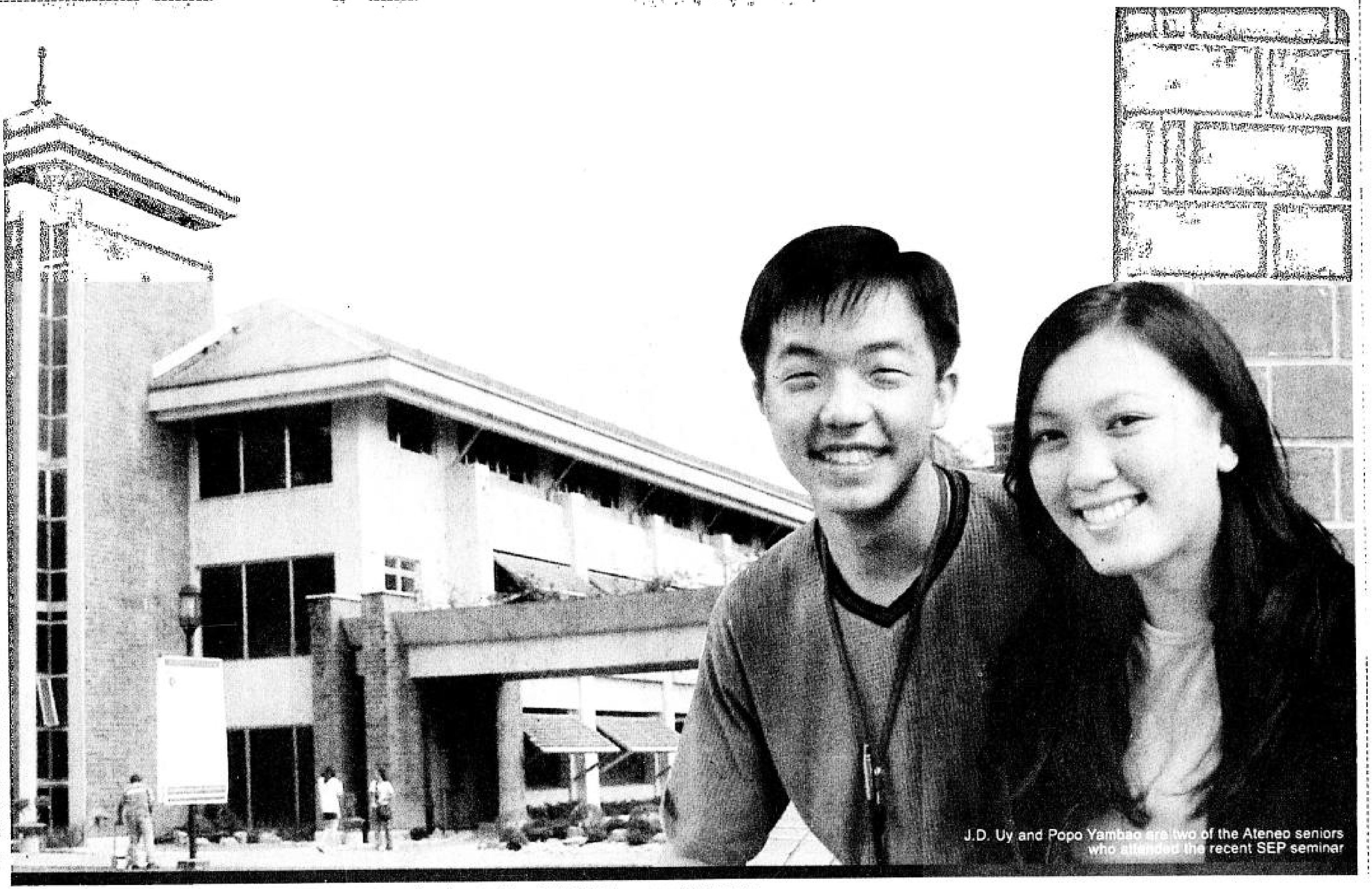
One wonders where mercy goes
after electricity. Or after the dead return
to the antechambers of memory.
Like tonight: I'm busy watching candles.
Mother says they must burn true,
guarded from wind. Respect for the departed
is a beautiful, grateful light.
Or a lot of it.
We've placed twelve candles around the house
for the day of souls.

There's been no power for the last few hours.
Nobody's sure when it will be restored.
For the meantime, I stare and marvel
at the contours of flickering candlelight.
There's nothing much else to do;
amazement is a good distraction while

one considers the gathered sweat
and pushes back a prayer.
The dead have gone and the night
is getting darker, deepening
to its natural blackness.
One eventually gives in to supplication.
Lord Almighty
we want our MTV.

Anything but this. One by one
the candles burn down to frail light
balanced on wicks,
going out when one's not looking,
a sudden breeze betraying a lifetime
of vigilance. The night is harsh,
old and we stumble,
invisible, powerless.

Joel Toledo


J.D. Uy and Popo Yambao are two of the Ateneo seniors who attended the recent SEP seminar

Ateneo's Science and Education Complex hosted the latest installment of the SMART Entrepreneurial Program

Flying High in Loyola Heights

SMART Entrepreneurial Program visits the Ateneo

The SMART Entrepreneurial Program (SEP) recently made a stop at the Ateneo de Manila University campus in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. The SEP has been to numerous colleges and universities nationwide, promoting the values of entrepreneurship and key insights into starting one's own business. Speakers are brought in to address graduating seniors as well as unemployed individuals who are looking at entrepreneurship as a viable alternative in making a living. On this particular occasion, the SEP visited the home of the Blue Eagles.

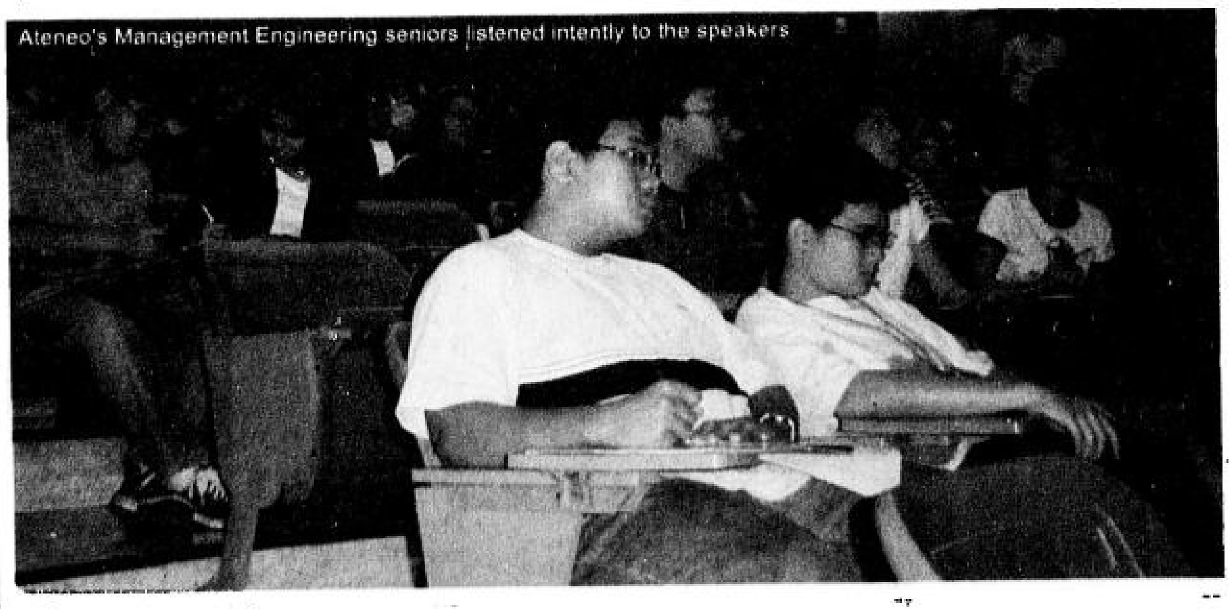
> "SEP at the Ateneo is our fresh run into 2005, renewing our commitment to provide more than 380,000 graduating students yearly new opportunities for self-employment."
>
> --Boy Martirez
> Head PCMSD, SMART Communications

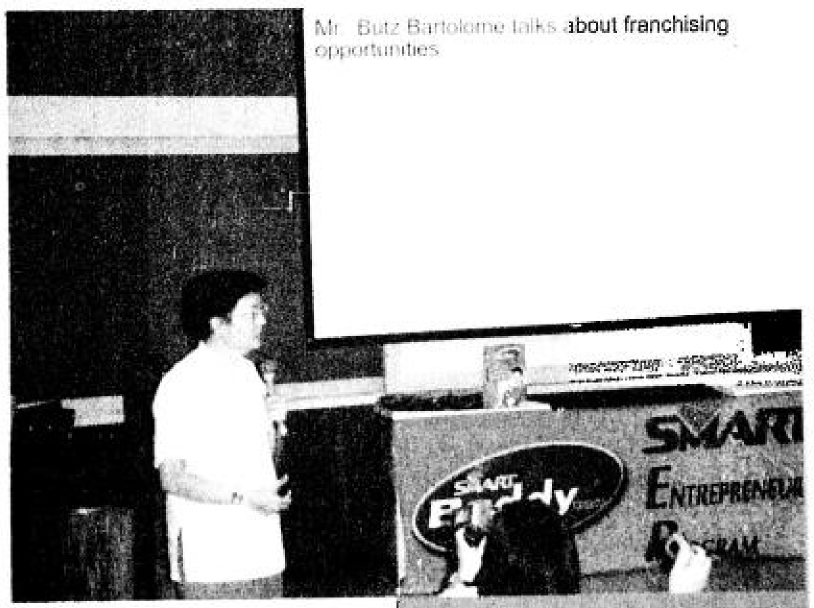
The Escaler Hall at the Science and Education Complex served as the backdrop for the latest SEP installment. Sponsored by Ateneo's Management Engineering Association and backed by the John Gokongwei School of Management, this SEP session was opened with faculty member Mr. Arturo Valencia praising the SEP for raising the entrepreneurial spirit of the Ateneo. "We want to build employers, not employees," said Valencia, adding that "the SMART Entrepreneurial Program is indicative of that intention."

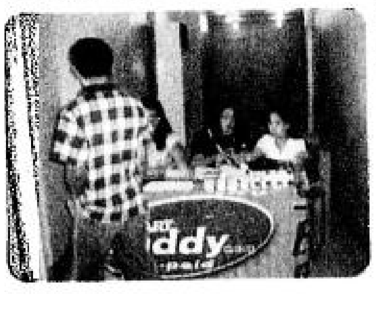
Mr. Butz Bartolome, president of GMB Franchise Developers and Consultancy Firm, discussed entering into the franchising business. Mr. Bartolome addressed topics as broad as attitudes in the workplace, exploring opportunities, as well as developing niche markets, and gaining an audience through word of mouth. For his part, SEP Agent Coordinator Andre Zapanta introduced the students to the world of SMART entrepreneurship.

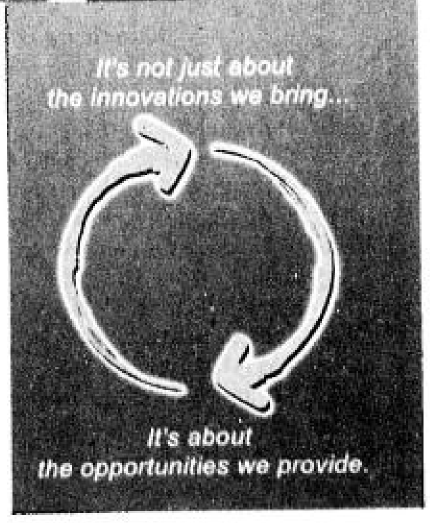
To Popo Yambao and J.D. Uy, both graduating seniors taking up Management Engineering, the SEP was a welcome sight, particularly because of their graduating status. "Some of us are already looking for jobs," Popo stated. "We really found the talk on franchising interesting." J.D. added that he sees the SEP and the lectures given as, "not just for those who have finished their education, it's also for the unemployed." Popo herself seemed to be intrigued with the notion of putting up her own SMART Load center within her village. Both agreed though that they were thankful for SMART visiting their school and showing them some insight into the life of an entrepreneur. "Entrepreneurship is a risk, but it's also a way of getting into your own business." That's a notion that these Ateneans certainly seemed to be intrigued by.

Mr. Arturo Valencia welcomed the spirit of entrepreneurship that the SEP promotes


Ateneo's Management Engineering seniors listened intently to the speakers


Mr. Butz Bartolome talks about franchising opportunities



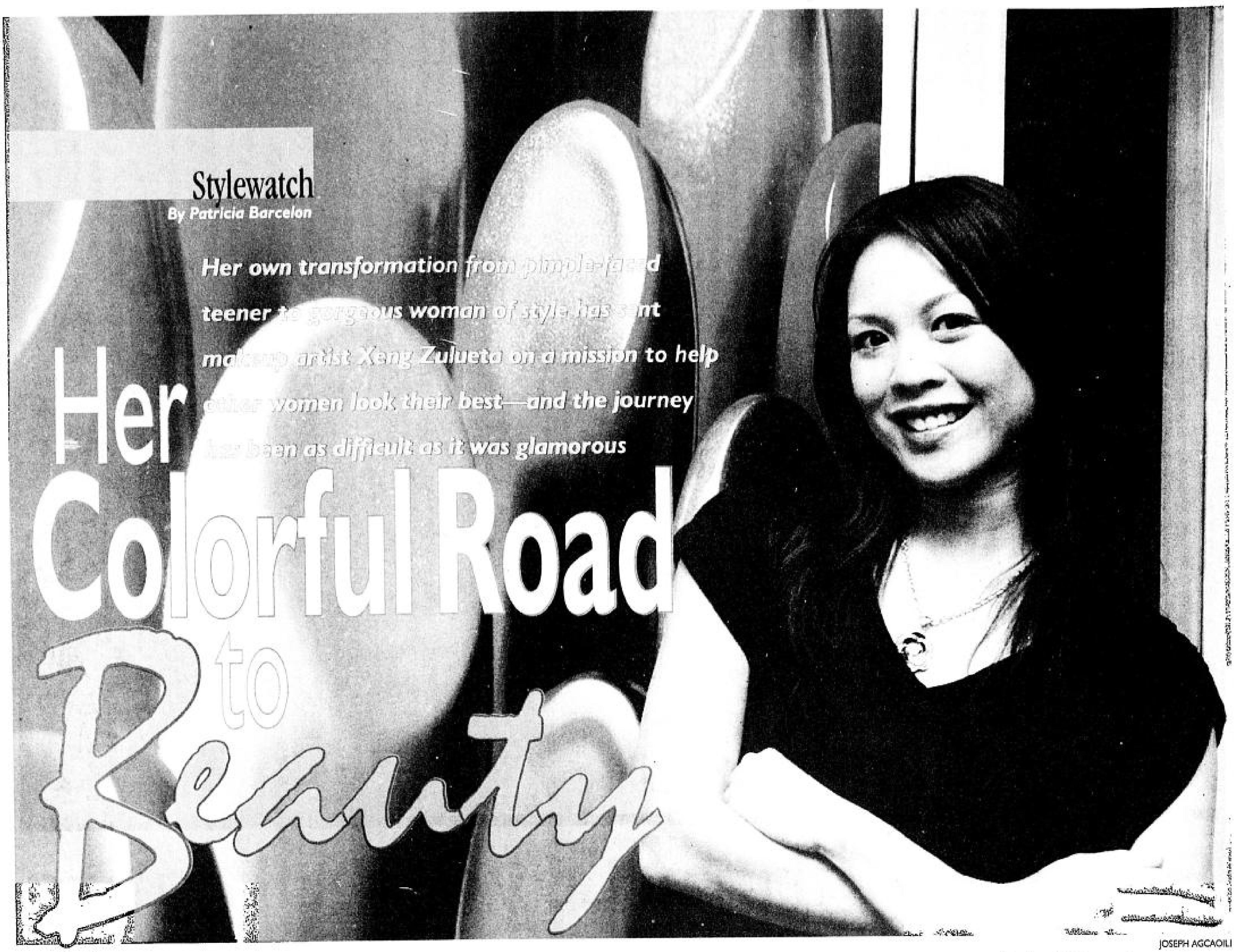

It's not just about the innovations we bring...
It's about the opportunities we provide.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

Manny on Entrepreneurship

"Businesses do transform societies. They not only shape our physical and our virtual worlds, but also create new needs, new hopes, and new dreams."

-- Manuel V. Pangilinan,
PLDT and SMART Chairman



Stylewatch

By Patricia Barcelon

Her Colorful Road to Beauty

Her own transformation from pimple-faced teener to gorgeous woman of style has sent makeup artist Xeng Zulueta on a mission to help other women look their best—and the journey has been as difficult as it was glamorous

JOSEPH AGCAOILI

XENG Zulueta used to have really bad skin in high school, so bad the boys stopped courting her. "They said, 'You're cute, but you have so many pimples!'" recounts this chief makeup artist for the prestigious Japanese cosmetics brand Shu Uemura.

It was pretty harsh stuff in a co-ed school where looks, or rather bad looks, got you endless teasing. Once the doctor found out that Xeng's severe case of acne was caused by hormones, he promptly put her on the pill and in three months, her skin cleared up—just in time for college, where no one from her old school recognized the now smooth-skinned Xeng. Indeed, this once struggling freelance makeup artist has come a long way, carving out a recognizable name and reputation in the country's beauty and fashion industy. Her high school transformation convinced her that looks could boost confidence, and that she could help other young girls find the same road to beauty.

After college, Xeng worked in fashion retail with high-end brands like DKNY and Emporio Armani. At around this time, she also got exposed to the Propaganda team of makeup artists, including Jing Monis. Makeup, Xeng thought, was the way to go, since she didn't want to go into medicine and become a dermatologist. Makeup was a quick fix and provided instant gratification. She began to practice on herself, and soon people, including her customers, began to notice her skills. After a stint at Manolo Blahnik (which later became the store Wish) and at the urging of fellow makeup artist Juan Sarte III, she left for London to take a basic makeup course.

At that time, to make it in the beauty industry, one either had to apprentice under someone really good or go abroad. "I wanted to apprentice under Juan, but felt that I was so beneath him I couldn't possibly ask," Xeng says. Being an apprentice wasn't quite an option at that time, and being a woman doing makeup was a drawback as well.

Knocking on doors

Back from London, Xeng knocked on all the doors of fashion publications to get a job, "but chickened out at becoming a fulltime makeup artist." She was scared to fall flat on her face, she adds. Fear made her pack up for San Francisco where she shifted to information technology. Still, she never let go of her passion for makeup, taking up short makeup courses and practicing in her spare time.

Though the money was good in IT, Xeng decided to come back to Manila to try her luck as a makeup artist once again. But things didn't go her way. By that time, all her previous clients had gone to other make-up artists, and there was a bigger pool of competition to contend with. "For seven months, I had no job. I took any job I could, including non-paying jobs, just to get my name out there." Her name proved to be crucial. A fortune teller told her to use her nickname for her trade. "From Frances, I switched to my pet name, Xeng," she says.

When she was just about to give up, she got word that L'Oreal was bringing in Shu Uemura and that by happy coincidence, her old friend Tina Tinio was in charge of it. Xeng got the job, but that didn't stop other makeup artists from doubting her credentials. "They didn't think I was up to the job," she says. "They also thought it was all glamor, but it was hard work. I'd be working behind the counter seven days a week, usually catering to the old rich, the nouveau riche and the not rich!" As a L'Oreal employee, her contract stated that she couldn't take any independent jobs, like weddings or advertising, which are a makeup artist's bread and butter. "Until the Shu counters were up and running and the staff could stand on its own, I couldn't take any job unless it was connected to Shu Uemura," Xeng says.

But down the line, things got better. She was sent to Tokyo to train, "something I could never afford to do on my own, and you can quote me on that!" she exclaims. Last year, she became one of 19 make-up artists in the world accredited by the great Shu Uemura himself. To be included, she had to send in a 20-minute demo tape of herself doing basic preparation and then basic makeup. "Once you pass that, you get to go to step one," Xeng explains. Step one was a three-day series of tests and lectures in Tokyo with Uemura and his elite team. There was also a day for practical application with Uemura going around and pointing out each person's strong points and faults. "He said I did very well with foundation, I was very clean, but that I shouldn't be afraid to play around with textures," Xeng recounts. "I was so nervous that I made everything matte. It was then that I learned that it isn't only about selecting color, but selecting whether or not to use metallic, pearlized or matte finish on a certain area."

On the last day there was a "contest" to see who did the best makeup. "But that honor usually goes to the people who have been with Shu Uemura for more than five years," Xeng says. Those who won got to go with Shu Uemura's team to Shanghai to do the make-up concept for world-renowned designer Jean Paul Gautlier and other such luminaries. "That's what I want to do next," Xeng says with determination.

Not a magician

After three years with Shu Uemura, things are looking up for Xeng. According to friend and fellow makeup artist Lala Flores, to become a really successful makeup artist, you need three years of published work, print ads and bridal work. "I was able to jump all that and get to where I am in a year and a half, thanks to Shu Uemura. Now when people hear my name, they know me as a makeup artist and part of Shu," Xeng says.

All those years have taught her a few lessons, she adds. Here are a few she'd like to share with fellow make-up artists: "Trends are there to guide us as to what the colors of the season are, but if you find a formula that works for you, you don't need to follow trends." Xeng herself only uses black eyeliner, a bit of blush and lipstick. Lesson No. 2: "Get your makeup done professionally at least twice in your life. You'll be surprised at the way others see you and your face. Learn from that experience what you like and don't like, and do your own rendition." Finally, she says with a laugh, "Makeup artists are not magicians. They can only work with what God has given a person. I can't tell you how many times someone has come to the counter with a picture of J. Lo or Beyonce and demanded that they be made to look the exact same way!"

Xeng is about to turn 30. She's made a lot of sacrifices for her career, including a failed two-year marriage, but she's not complaining. "The first two years at Shu Uemura it was all work, work, work. Tina and I were winging it. After all, what did we know about selling makeup? I came from a fashion retail background and Tina came from public relations. In 2004, we started to get complacent and sit back a bit, but then Tina and I realized that we could have ended last year much better if we still had that same drive we had during the first two years. So this year, we're going back to basics and striking that balance to make it another successful year."

Personally, all she wants is some "peace and balance" in her life. The pimple-faced teener is also now one of Manila's new generation of style and beauty icons; the makeup artist recently got eyes popping when she recently went in front of the camera for a change to pose (tastefully) nude for the monthly glossy Metro Magazine. "They say when you're single and in your thirties, they're supposed to be the best years of your life because you're finally independent. I want to be able to find balance and have a stable career and hopefully a relationship I can settle into. As the movie '13 going on 30' said, I should be 30, flirty and thriving!"

RECREATION EN TAINME
BARE
DECEMBER/JA
City of Angels

Xeng's work on the cover of Bare Magazine

First Person

By Behn Cervantes

My Sister, My Teacher

The mentor: Esther accompanies one of her young wards

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MY SISTER Esther came home in 1954 after living in the States for many years. She left as a high school graduate of Central Philippine College, now University, in Jaro, Iloilo and came home with a Master's degree from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

> *Whatever I am as an artist now is largely because of Esther, for in that summer of 1955, she decided to help me turn the key to discover beauty, truths and paths to service*

Esther is the third among 11 children. I am the ninth, originally planned to be the Benjamin of the family, my Protestant parents greatly influenced by the Bible and the significance of Joseph's youngest sibling.

My earliest memories of Esther were at the piano. All my sisters took up the piano, as well brought-up girls did then, but she was more focused on it than the others. She became the accompanist of church choirs and some of Iloilo's budding singers, who took up vocal lessons under my aunt, Victoria, a graduate of Silliman's Conservatory of Music. Music, therefore, was a constant in our home, and classical music I associate with Esther, Tia Toria and her voice students, as well as Tita Manolita Fuentes Pison, prima donna and National Artist Jovita's younger sister, and also my sisters' piano teacher in Iloilo.

Esther's first piano teacher was Gertudes Hautea Del Rosario. Soon, Tita Tuding became better known as the mother of Nena del Rosario, the child prodigy, when the Del Rosarios moved to Manila, then later the United States so the talented daughter could receive more extensive training and musical exposure.

Not too long after, Nena's youthful feats were well-documented by the local press when she reaped success in America. She was greatly acclaimed when she came home as an adult—a world class concert pianist. Naturally, I kept tab of her artistic development and success. In the meantime, Esther had become a social worker, teaching in UP, PWU and other educational insitutions while working as a Psychiatric Social Worker in the Veteran's Memorial Hospital. Her piano playing had become a pastime, so when I took an interest in singing, she was more than eager to accompany me.

In the summer of 1955, when I was entering my senior year in La Salle High, my sister handed me a pile of books, some of which she had brought back from the States. "Catcher in the Rye," "Nectar on the Sieve," "Something of Value" were three of those bestsellers she recommended I read that summer in place of the many hours that were to be spent on the basketball court, the beach and the jam sessions.

She had made it a habit to peg the living radio on DZAS, the station that played classical music then. On the family Hi-Fi, she played her many records of classical music. Naturally, classical, operetta, Broadway shows, piano and vocal pieces became my musical preference.

The seeds are planted

Esther encouraged me in my theater endeavors, especially when I branched out into directing, befriending my gangmates Adul de Leon, Joonee Gamboa and Lino Brocka, while taking a personal interest in our work and development. She likewise kept abreast of my political work when I took to the streets, even watching productions I did inside Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan with a cast made up of Nelia Sancho, Satur Ocampo, Ed de la Torre, Jules Fortuna, Pepe Luneta and other political prisoners.

Esther was cited by the College of Social Work and Community Development "for her high quality and dedicated service to the university, outstanding performance in social work, and extension of expertise or services to the community" after many years as a professor and College Secretary for three terms.

However, after retirement, Esther acquired acute Parkinson's Disease and suffered a stroke. Nevertheless, as a friend said, she had already planted countless seeds, many of which are in full flower now. Esther once said, "I believe like Kahlil Gibran that the teacher can only lead the learner to the door of learning. For it is the learner who must choose to turn the key, and enter, having been provided by the teacher glimpses of excitement and enduring joys of prismatic discovery—of beauty, of truths, of paths to service, as infinitely conceived by the greatest of all teachers, our universal creator. This, I have attempted as a teacher, in many years of being transformed in the challenging task of individual transformation."

Esther, my sister, my supporter and great influence, I always associate with music and beauty. Whatever I am as an artist now is largely because of her, for in that summer of 1955, she decided to help me turn the key to discover beauty, truths and paths to service. ◘

The UP College of Social Work and Community Development will sponsor a fund-raising concert featuring concert pianists Nena del Rosario Villanueva and Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz for a foundation in Esther's honor on Friday, February 18 at 5 p.m. at the Abelardo Hall, UP Diliman.

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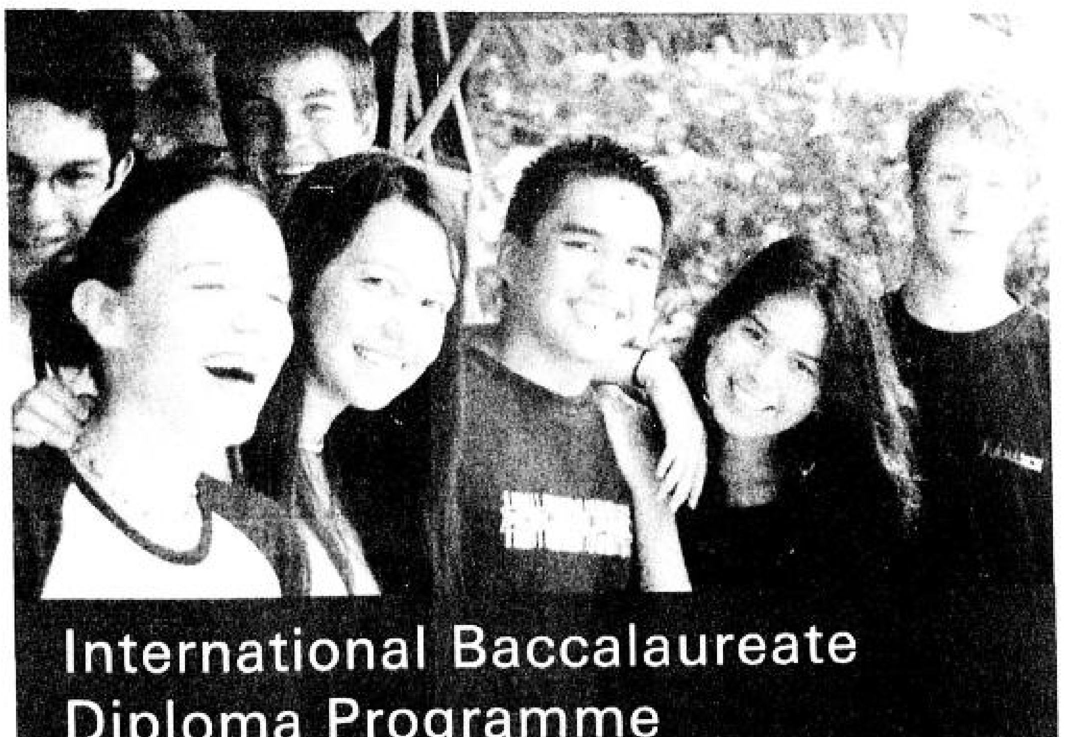

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People for the Planet

By Ross Harper Alonso

A Champion Even Out of the Water

She's a bemedalled swimmer, a TV personality, and a businesswoman. Now Akiko Thomson has taken on some new roles, as guardian of a historic lighthouse and spokeswoman for the environment

MARIA SULEIMAN

AKIKO THOMSON'S career as an athlete was a stellar one, but she isn't just a swimmer now that she's out of water. She has a degree in Anthropology, minor in theater, and an MBA from the Ateneo. They're all backgrounds that bode well, given the nature of her interests. "I'm most often associated with swimming and I like to think it was the avenue I started from," Akiko explains. "But I chose college courses totally unrelated to sports. Not because I didn't think a career in sports would be good, but I decided to veer towards the social sciences and liberal arts instead. This could be because as a child, I traveled with my family a lot and I developed a natural curiosity for people."

Akiko also grew up caring for the environment, and by merging this passion with a practical application of the discipline, she earned a distinguished rank from the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA). She's a Lieutenant Commander and her father, J. Marsh Thomson, a Captain of the 106th PCGA Squadron.

Official custodian

Last March, the Thomsons became the official custodians of the Faro de Punta de Malabrigo, the 112-year-old Spanish lighthouse in Lobo, Batangas, in line with the PCGA's Adopt-a-Lighthouse Program. After a year of research and coordination, this architectural treasure is now safe from deterioration and the seaside town will soon be a model for responsible ecotourism, giving the local economy a needed boost. "I used the basics I learned in school to help provide solutions to contemporary problems. It was important to interact or offer advice to the locals and help them understand the long term benefits of a preserved historic building and protected marine life," Akiko points out.

"Lobo is pretty isolated, so you can imagine how much effort it took to get this far," she stresses. "We also hope to infect people with our enthusiasm to work with the PCGA to secure the future of other Spanish lighthouses."

There were 20 lighthouses built in the Philippines during the Spanish period. Only three—the Farola at the mouth of the Pasig River, the Bagacay Lighthouse in Cebu and the light station at Cape Bojeador, Ilocos Norte—have been adopted by the 126th squadron of the PCGA and NGOs.

Social awareness

"The PCGA is the largest NGO in the country," Akiko explains. "Not many realize that. I have to lead by example to encourage people to volunteer for our environmental clean ups and social awareness programs. We also participate in search and rescue operations. You can say it's a big plus that I was trained since I was 11 for physical work," she says, while playfully mimicking a body builder. "I do have many fond memories of those formative years but it certainly wasn't a joke, especially for a young child like I was, to dive into the pool everyday and do laps for two hours after school. Believe me, the meaning of discipline was ingrained in me with every stroke I made!" Her dad being a military man was probably the driving force behind every medal she won, Akiko recalls. " Without his constant encouragement and stern rules, I wouldn't have made it to the Olympics."

Needless to say, Akiko takes her new duties very seriously. "It might sound like a cliché but it's true; with the PCGA uniform comes a good deal of responsibility," she admits. "Although I don't have a drop of Filipino blood—I was naturalized—it's a good feeling to be able to serve in my own little way. The Filipinos have such a rich cultural heritage but also endangered natural resources so I do my best to pitch in and raise the level of awareness for both."

Akiko hosts Probe Productions' "Game Plan," and had the rare opportunity to visit an actual archaeological research site and dive in Taal Lake, Batangas. "When we arrived at a forested area near the lake, experts from the National Museum and students from UP were carefully brushing dirt from century-old artifacts, unearthing stone walls and quietly recording data. It looked like a scene taken from a page of one of my college textbooks," she gushes. "It was very exciting since I didn't do any actual fieldwork when I was a student and I was looking forward to my first fresh water dive." The dive, however, was a major disappointment and painted an entirely different picture of the postcard pretty lake. "We didn't see a single *tawilis* or any of the other endemic species, and the water smelled like rotten fish," Akiko laments. "*Tilapia* and *bangus* were swimming amidst trash and discarded fishnets carpeted the floor. I had no idea the lake was facing so many environmental problems, but then this is a major reason why I find fulfillment working in media. It allows me to educate and disseminate important information that can affect lives."

As if she doesn't have enough to do already, Akiko continues to support the different aquatic organizations in the country, and is active with youth related activities, making her a popular guest speaker at leadership forums. "I'm not comfortable talking about myself but when I do, I take it as an opportunity to encourage kids to accept challenges and make use of whatever comes their way. Bad or good, it'll all work out for as long as they stay focused on their goals."

Just like the century-old beacon she now watches over, Akiko is a picture of dependability and selfless service whether she's in the water or on dry land.

[illegible] ...from page 2

Quezon Memorial Circle a week after Kintanar was killed. "He was jogging and I asked him to bless the Japanese restaurant where my *Tito* Rolly fell. Later, we held a 'Run for Rolly, Run for Justice and Peace,' starting from the Bahay ng Alumni at the University of the Philippines, where my Uncle Popoy Lagman was gunned down.

"It turns out that it was also Fr. Robert who said Mass at my father's wake at UP in 1982 when Ateneo initially didn't want Tats' body on its campus," he adds.

Turning 30 is always a milestone, but turning 50 can make one very sentimental, especially Fr. Robert, says Nonoy. "He was a honeymoon baby, born exactly nine months after his parents' wedding. So on this run, we're stopping at a Baguio hotel where the miracle of his conception happened." Running alongside the two men are members of the Knights of Columbus who are celebrating their 100th year in the Philippines. "That's why we're doing 100 km a day—80 km biking and 20 km running," explains Fr. Robert.

The group will stop at San Miguel, Bulacan; San Jose, Nueva Ecija; Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya; Santiago, Isabela, Banaue and Bontoc enroute to Sagada, and then proceed to Baguio. Instead of a continuous bike-run, Fr. Robert says they will stop to talk to people about pursuing an alternative, healthy and environment-friendly lifestyle. "What does it mean to live simply? How can we protect the environment through our eating, driving and agricultural ways? We'll be discussing this with people on the route," he says.

Agrees Nonoy: "We want to promote a simple lifestyle, and what could be simpler than two men running to get to places using their own strength? We also want to protect the environment by going places without using fossil fuels. And there's very little expense involved." The run, he adds, follows the ways of the *katutubo*, the cultural minorities who use their feet to get around. "They are aware of the need for harmony between people and the environment."

The run, he adds, is also "a plea for justice for victims of violence and for prisoners wrongly accused." Jopson specifically mentions Paco Larrañaga, one of those convicted in the rape-slay of the Chiong sisters in Cebu, whom this athlete believes is innocent.

The Manila-Sagada-Baguio run could well mark Nonoy's attempt to finally come to terms with his family history. "The three violent deaths in my family had such an impact on me," he confesses. "I don't think I can do the same—sacrifice my life for an ideology. But I hope to be able to combine sports and activism by pushing good causes. I want to help out our local athletes, most of whom didn't even finish college. Between politics and the sports arena, I think there's more purity in sports."

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People for the Planet

By Ross Harper Alonso

A Champion Even Out of the Water

She's a bemedalled swimmer, a TV personality, and a businesswoman. Now Akiko Thomson has taken on some new roles, as guardian of a historic lighthouse and spokeswoman for the environment.

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Social awareness

"The PCGA is the largest NGO in the country," Akiko explains. "Not many realize that. I have to lead by example to encourage people to volunteer for our environmental clean ups and social awareness programs. We also participate in search and rescue operations. You can say it's a big plus that I was trained since I was 11 for physical work," she says, while playfully mimicking a body builder. "I do have many fond memories of those formative years but it certainly wasn't a joke, especially for a young child like I was, to dive into the pool everyday and do laps for two hours after school. Believe me, the meaning of discipline was ingrained in me with every stroke I made!" Her dad being a military man was probably the driving force behind every medal she won, Akiko recalls. " Without his constant encouragement and stern rules, I wouldn't have made it to the Olympics."

Needless to say, Akiko takes her new duties very seriously. "It might sound like a cliché but it's true; with the PCGA uniform comes a good deal of responsibility," she admits. "Although I don't have a drop of Filipino blood—I was naturalized—it's a good feeling to be able to serve in my own little way. The Filipinos have such a rich cultural heritage but also endangered natural resources so I do my best to pitch in and raise the level of awareness for both."

Akiko hosts Probe Productions' "Game Plan," and had the rare opportunity to visit an actual archaeological research site and dive in Taal Lake, Batangas. "When we arrived at a forested area near the lake, experts from the National Museum and students from UP were carefully brushing dirt from century-old artifacts, unearthing stone walls and quietly recording data. It looked like a scene taken from a page of one of my college textbooks," she gushes. "It was very exciting since I didn't do any actual fieldwork when I was a student and I was looking forward to my first fresh water dive." The dive, however, was a major disappointment and painted an entirely different picture of the postcard pretty lake. "We didn't see a single *tawilis* or any of the other endemic species, and the water smelled like rotten fish," Akiko laments. "*Tilapia* and *bangus* were swimming amidst trash and discarded fishnets carpeted the floor. I had no idea the lake was facing so many environmental problems, but then this is a major reason why I find fulfillment working in media. It allows me to educate and disseminate important information that can affect lives."

As if she doesn't have enough to do already, Akiko continues to support the different aquatic organizations in the country, and is active with youth related activities, making her a popular guest speaker at leadership forums. "I'm not comfortable talking about myself but when I do, I take it as an opportunity to encourage kids to accept challenges and make use of whatever comes their way. Bad or good, it'll all work out for as long as they stay focused on their goals."

Just like the century-old beacon she now watches over, Akiko is a picture of dependability and selfless service whether she's in the water or on dry land.

[illegible] ...from page 2

Quezon Memorial Circle a week after Kintanar was killed. "He was jogging and I asked him to bless the Japanese restaurant where my *Tito* Rolly fell. Later, we held a 'Run for Rolly, Run for Justice and Peace,' starting from the Bahay ng Alumni at the University of the Philippines, where my Uncle Popoy Lagman was gunned down.

"It turns out that it was also Fr. Robert who said Mass at my father's wake at UP in 1982 when Ateneo initially didn't want Tats' body on its campus," he adds.

Turning 30 is always a milestone, but turning 50 can make one very sentimental, especially Fr. Robert, says Nonoy. "He was a honeymoon baby, born exactly nine months after his parents' wedding. So on this run, we're stopping at a Baguio hotel where the miracle of his conception happened." Running alongside the two men are members of the Knights of Columbus who are celebrating their 100th year in the Philippines. "That's why we're doing 100 km a day—80 km biking and 20 km running," explains Fr. Robert.

The group will stop at San Miguel, Bulacan; San Jose, Nueva Ecija; Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya; Santiago, Isabela, Banaue and Bontoc enroute to Sagada, and then proceed to Baguio. Instead of a continuous bike-run, Fr. Robert says they will stop to talk to people about pursuing an alternative, healthy and environment-friendly lifestyle. "What does it mean to live simply? How can we protect the environment through our eating, driving and agricultural ways? We'll be discussing this with people on the route," he says.

Agrees Nonoy: "We want to promote a simple lifestyle, and what could be simpler than two men running to get to places using their own strength? We also want to protect the environment by going places without using fossil fuels. And there's very little expense involved." The run, he adds, follows the ways of the *katutubo*, the cultural minorities who use their feet to get around. "They are aware of the need for harmony between people and the environment."

The run, he adds, is also "a plea for justice for victims of violence and for prisoners wrongly accused." Jopson specifically mentions Paco Larrañaga, one of those convicted in the rape-slay of the Chiong sisters in Cebu, whom this athlete believes is innocent.

The Manila-Sagada-Baguio run could well mark Nonoy's attempt to finally come to terms with his family history. "The three violent deaths in my family had such an impact on me," he confesses. "I don't think I can do the same—sacrifice my life for an ideology. But I hope to be able to combine sports and activism by pushing good causes. I want to help out our local athletes, most of whom didn't even finish college. Between politics and the sports arena, I think there's more purity in sports."

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This Week

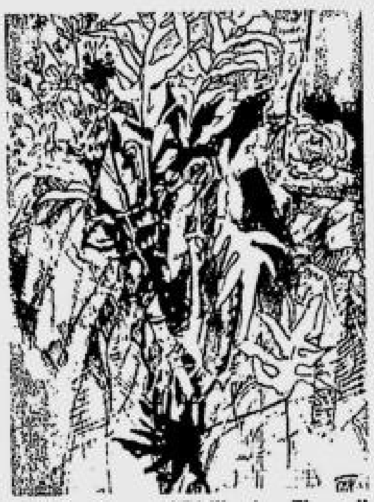
Art

Counterparts: A curious look at Filipinos on parade, a photo exhibit by Claudine Sia featuring a series of 28 colored images mounted in 14 diptychs, Feb. 6 to 25 at the Third Floor Foyer, Vargas Museum, UP Diliman. For inquiries, call 928-1927, 920-5319 loc. 7408.

Rafael Cusi is holding an exhibit of black and white paintings on Feb. 12, 5 p.m. at Gallery A, 100-C Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City. For details, call 532-0218.

Paris Revisited, a solo exhibit by Marvin Macalintal featuring a selection of photographs from his last trip to Paris in autumn 2004, until Feb. 26 at Alliance Francaise de Manille Annex Gallery. For details, call 857-6935.

The Wahana Project, an artist collective initiated by a group of contemporary artists from Singapore, opens on Feb. 12 at The Edge Gallery of the UP Vargas Museum, Roxas Avenue, Diliman QC. For details, call 928-1927.



"Philippine Flaura" by Rafael Cusi, on view at Gallery A

Music

In celebration of Sta. Isabel College's Diamond anniversary, **Concert at the Park** presents a program showcasing the Sta. Isabel College of Music talents who are members of the Guitar Ensemble, the Sta. Isabel Vocalists and Tingog Kulintang today at 5 at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium. Free admission.

British tenor **Russell Watson** will hold a one-night-only concert at the PICC Plenary Hall on Feb. 10. Russell's repertoire will include favorite classical standards like "Nessun Dorma," "Caruso," "Granada," "Santa Lucia" and soulful ballads from his past albums like "The Prayer," a moving duet he will sing with Ima Castro. For tickets, call Ticketworld at 891-9999.

Regine Velasquez teams up with Pops Fernandez in a Valentine's show, **Queens... On Fire**, on Feb. 11 and 12 at the Ultra. Directed by Rowell Santiago with Raul Mitra and Homer Flores as musical directors, the back-to-back concert also features Erik Santos as guest. The show will also be staged in the States on April. Tickets available at Ticketworld (tel. 891-5610).

Paco Park Presents the Philippine-German Month with "Young Artists In Focus." Performers include guitarists Butch Roxas and James Namit on Feb. 11; Hail Mary, The Queen Children's Choir on Feb. 18; soprano Rachelle Gerodias and pianist Najib Ismail on Feb. 25. Show starts 6 p.m. at Paco Park, San Marcelino, Manila. Admission is free.

Candid Records Philippines and The Podium Mall are holding three romantic nights of music, **Jazz in Love**, at the Chill Area-Podium Front with Isha on Feb. 11 accompanied by Jayvee Torres on drums and Simon Tan on bass, British-Filipina jazz singer Mishka Adams croons timeless classics on Feb. 18, and Affinity band on Feb. 25. For details, call 724-4832.

The Engineer and The Vamp, a Valentine dinner concert featuring Leo Valdez and Verni Varga on Feb. 13 at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La. Dinner at 7 p.m. and show starts at 9 p.m. For tickets, call 817-5393 and 817-5392 or Ticketworld at 891-5610.

Upcoming singer **Sean Lim** will launch his self-titled album on Feb. 9 at Eastwood Walk, Eastwood City, Libis, QC. The show starts at 9 p.m. with Star in a Million Grand Champion Frenchie Dy as special guest. For inquiries, call Dynamix, Inc. at 533-8153 or 718-0945.

Onstage

Entablado theater group of the Ateneo de Manila University presents *"Tapon! Tapon!"* featuring the plays ***Ang Sistema ni Propesor Tuko*** by Al Santos at ***Tatalon*** by Rogelio Sicat. The first play is a satire on the ridiculous system of public education in the Philippines while the second is a jeepney driver's monologue on the pains of being one of the marginalized in society. To be staged at the Gonzaga Fine Arts Studio Theater, Gonzaga Hall, Ateneo de Manila, Loyola Heights, QC on Feb. 10, 11 (7 p.m.) and Feb. 12 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.) For details, call 426-6001 loc. 5068.

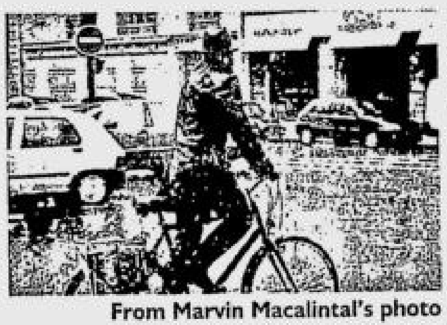
Watch the country's leading folk dance groups come together to showcase interpretations and influences in local folk dance and music in ***Sari-Saring Sayaw, Sama-Samang Galaw*** on Feb. 11 at 8 p.m., Feb. 12 and 13 at 3 p.m. at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. For details, call 832-1125 loc. 1602-1603.

Repertory Philippines will stage **Busybody**, a comedy thriller written by Jack Popplewell, from Feb. 11 to 27 at REP's Globe Theater at Onstage in Greenbelt 1. A disappearing body, an interfering cleaning lady and a bossy detective make for a crazy whodunit that will chase anybody's blues away. Evening performances at 8 every Friday and Saturday with 3:30 p.m. matinees every Saturday and Sunday. For details, call 887-0710.

Teatrong Mulat is re-staging **Sita & Rama: Papet Ramayana** from Feb. 9-12 at the Dalisay Aldaba Recital Hall (back of the University Theater) in UP Diliman. The brother and sister team of Cynthia Alexander and Joey Ayala composed and arranged the melodies for the lyrics of the songs of Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio and are featured in one CD to be launched during the re-staging. Tickets available at the gates or call 921-9773.

Cinema

Schedule of screenings at the **UP Film Institute**: "The Notebook" (Feb. 8, 5 p.m.); "Amelie" (Feb. 14, 5 p.m.); "Innocence" (Feb. 15, 5 p.m.). To best highlight the arts on the big screen are works of some of the world's all-time heroes and heroines for the imaginative spirit: novelist Iris Murdoch in "Iris" (Feb. 7, 5 p.m.); top German filmmaker of the 1920s FW Murnau in "Shadow of the Vampire" (Feb. 17, 5 p.m.); Cuba's literary icon Reinaldo Arenas in "Before Night Falls" (Feb. 18, 7 p.m.); poet Sylvia Plath in "Sylvia" (Feb. 21, 5 p.m.); the Beatles in "A Hard Day's Night" (Feb. 22, 5 p.m.). For details, call 926-3640.



From Marvin Macalintal's photo exhibit "Paris Revisited," at the Alliance Francaise de Manille

Atbp

Danton Remoto's new book, **Pulotgata, The Love Poems**, will be launched on Feb. 12, 4 p.m. at Powerbooks Greenbelt 4, Makati Avenue, Makati City. The book comes from the imprint of Anvil Publishing. Pulotgata is the tenth book of Remoto. For details, call 747-1522.

The **4th Philippine National Chemistry Olympiad** presented by DOST-SEI, KKP, and the Ateneo and UP Chemical Societies. Ateneo Science Education Complex, Feb. 11-13. The Feb. 13 Finals will be open to the public. For inquiries, contact 0917-2098203 or 426-6001 loc. 5620.

The Alcove Photo Gallery invites beginning photographers and hobbyists to its final class offering, **Photo 101: Photography for Beginners** by Jay Alonzo on Feb. 14, 16, 18, 21 and 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle (across The Peninsula Manila). Each participant has to bring a 135-format film-based SLR, Rangefinder or digital camera with manual exposure control. Workshop fee is P2,500. For details, call 892-1801.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

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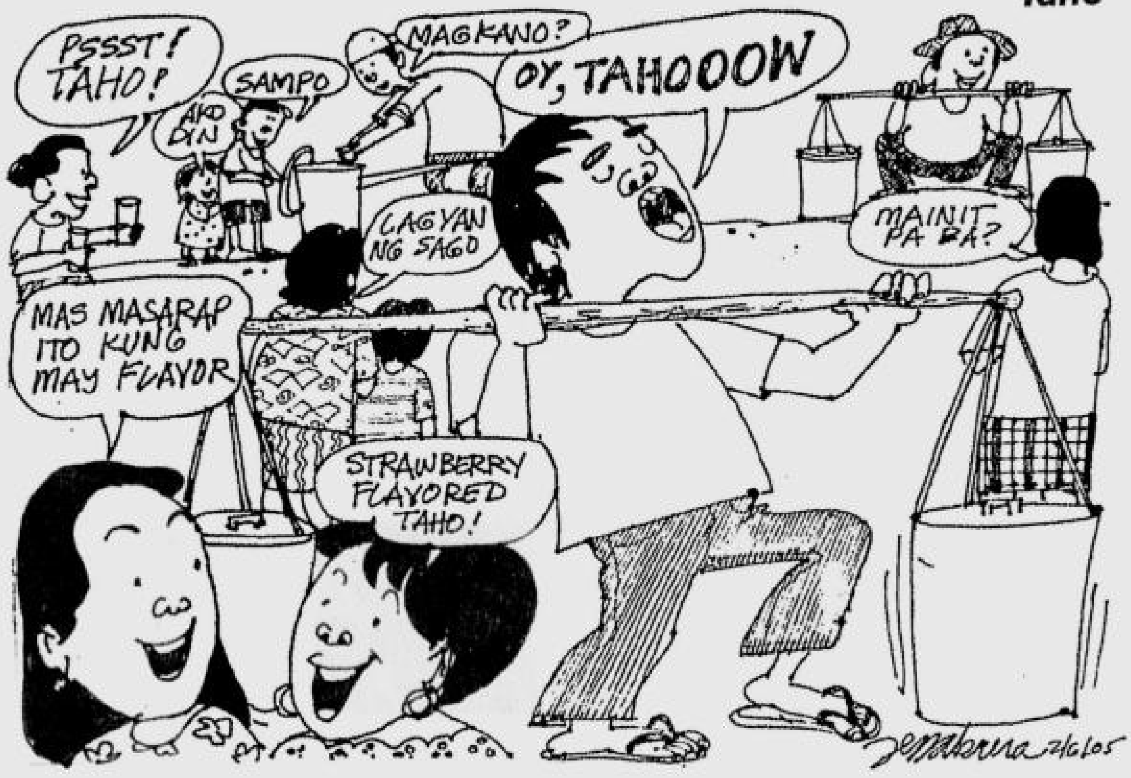
Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Taho



The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

The Slow Process of Saying Goodbye

Being at home with the aging in our midst is the best preparation for our aging self. For indeed, we shall be tomorrow what we have allowed our elderly to become today

Foreword:

ASH Wednesday (February 9) and Valentine's Day (February 14) are the two days in February that seem to remind us of "this thing called Love."

Ash Wednesday brings us closer to Holy Week (March 20-27), which reminds us of the Passion of the Christ who, according to the Christians, is the Greatest Lover of all.

The Greatest Love of All is not about buying all the roses and chocolates, candies and buntings that the merchants of love force you to buy. The Greatest Love of All is about giving and receiving forgiveness, being at home with the aging and helping the helpless help themselves—including yourself. My next two columns (February 6 and 20) are about "Being at Home with the Aging" and "Helping the Helpless." Try it, and tell me why they prove to be the Passion of the Christ for you.

* * *

At Home With the Aging

"I have cared for you from the time you were born. I am your God and will take care of you until you are old and your hair is grey. I made you and will care for you. I will sustain you and rescue you." Isaiah 46:3-4

On my mind right now are Nanay Luz Zafra (age 103), Luz de la Cruz in her early 90s and some high school classmates of mine in their early 70s or early 80s who are still alert and mobile, but quite worried about aging.

We thank God for our being Filipinos because, in general, we still respect and cherish our elderly. In some developed countries like Europe and Japan, there is such a thing as "granny dumping": abandoning elderly people in the emergency rooms of hospitals or in so-called "homes for the aged" while the family moves on to another neighborhood or grown-up children leave their parents' house to live their own lives somewhere else.

"Aging," my high school teacher said on her 78th birthday, "is a slow process of saying good-bye. You say good-bye to old friends who die ahead of you. You say good-bye to familiar places as you move from your old neighborhood to a village in the suburbs. You say good-bye to old traditions, old ideas and old familiar church hymns and love songs. Everything seems to be leaving you when you grow old and grey—even your eyesight and your memory."

The fear of being forgotten and discarded seems to be the common agony of the aging. This universal fear is reflected in the prayer of an old man in Psalm 31:9-12:

"Be merciful to me, Lord…
for I am completely worn out,
exhausted by sorrow…
Weeping has shortened my life,
even my bones are wasting away.
All my enemies and friends treat me with contempt;
Those who know me are afraid of me;
they run away when they see me in the street.
Everyone has forgotten me…
I am like something
thrown away and discarded."

That is why aging people cherish our caring presence. Just being with the elderly is, for them, a sign that they are valuable, not "something forgotten and discarded," as the lonely old man in Psalm 31 was saying.

What to do

1. Treat your old folks as adults. It is a myth that aging necessarily makes a person senile (*ulyanin*). The National Institute on Aging reports that "although there is some documented intellectual decline with aging, many mental abilities even improve, or at least remain stable even at the oldest age."

Pope John XXII was renewing the "old Church" when he was 80. Grandma Moses mounted her best painting when she was 100. George Bernard Shaw, in his 90s, was still pruning a tree when he fell and broke a leg. Rembrandt and Michelangelo did their best works in their old age. Albert Schweitzer, Albert Einstein, Lorenzo Tañada Sr., Diosdado Macapagal, Mother Teresa are some examples of "aging with vigor and grace."

2. Expose the elderly to "visuomotor stimulators": reading materials in bold print, posters in bold letters, a magnifying glass, hearing aids, photos and clippings, video films, tape recordings, charts or a special cork-board to post up important names, dates, recipes, tasks to remember. Keep their minds busy discovering something new each day.

3. Talk with the elderly and listen without interrupting and without judging. Shut off all distractions first: the TV, radio, glaring light. Sit very close to them. Get them to talk about their significant past: their childhood, their parents, their joys, pains, romance. Be convinced that the "old folks are more than what you now see." Try to imagine them in the prime of their youth: attractive, strong and very competent. Invite the old folks to organize and mount their own "memory albums" with old photos, letters, clippings, and invite some old friends of theirs who are still alive for a "memory jamming."

4. Tenderly touch the elderly while greeting, talking and praying with them. Psychologists tell us that gentle touching as a healing gesture is very important to one who is chronically afraid and lonely—like the elderly and the mentally handicapped.

5. Introduce the old folks to new friends, young and old and invite the children to visit regularly. This will open the minds of the elderly to new things and allow them to dream with the young.

6. Since some aging persons, especially in their 80s and 90s, have stopped thinking of the future, they might also stop expecting surprises. Schedule special dates your old folks can look forward to: your regular visits or the visits of the eucharistic minister, a small gathering of former classmates, a children's party, a special viewing of a vintage film, a birthday Mass at home. Bring a pasalubong (Lola's favorite fruit) or *kakanin*, or get her to cook the *kakanin* herself. Or bring Lolo's favorite *apo* (grandchild) for a surprise visit, or get him to fetch the apo himself.

Here's a testimony of one Lola Alice:

"A year ago I was ready to die. Seventy-two years of life is enough. My work is over. My family is gone. I sat alone watching the calendar go by, lost in memories and self-pity.

"A large, noisy family with many children moved in next door. I was polite when the kids came by to introduce themselves, and patiently let them race around the house exploring every nook. I didn't like it.

"In the weeks that followed, I learned their names. Their heroes. Their hiding places. Their favorite desserts. One day I found myself loving them. I became the person I'd forgotten I was.

"When the children invited me to cook hot lunches in school, the school board thought I was too old for the job. I told them I owned a restaurant for 26 years. Well, I'm doing just fine. I have come back to life."

Maybe someday I should write about us growing older by the day. But being at home with the aging in our midst is, for me, the best preparation for our aging self. For indeed, we shall be tomorrow what we have allowed our elderly to become today. Q

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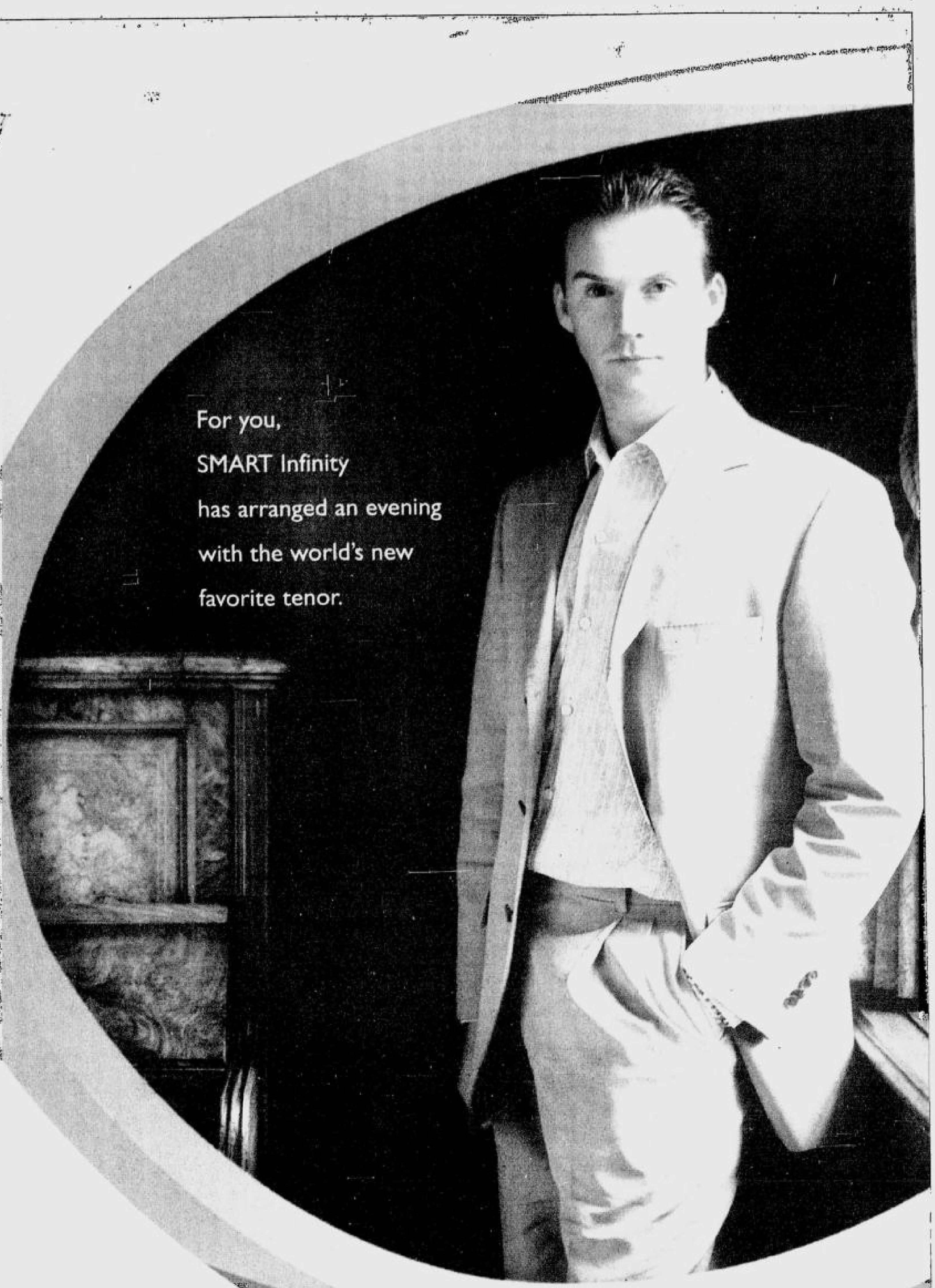
Enjoy life's best.



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